

VIA BRINDISI.]

The London and China News Telegraph.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY ON ARRIVAL OF THE P. & O. MESSENGERS AND PACIFIC MAILS FROM CHINA JAPAN STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, &c.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE "LONDON AND CHINA EXPRESS" A WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR THE OUTWARD MAILS.

VOL. XIX.—No. 702.]

LONDON, MONDAY, FEB. 12, 1877.

[Price 3d.—Subscription, 42 3s. per annum, Postage included.]

Latest Advices.

Ports	OUTWARD.		HOMeward.
	From London.	Arrived out.	
JAPAN—Yokohama ...	Nov. 3	Dec. 23	Dec. 28*
Yedo ...	—	—	26*
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Nagasaki ...	—	—	19
CHINA—Peking ...	—	—	28
Tien-tsin ...	—	—	31
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Lahon ...	—	—	3
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Samarang ...	—	—	—
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MALACCA STRAITS—	—	—	—
Singapore ...	Dec. 8	Jan. 11	11
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* Via San Francisco.

THE MAILS, &c.

The P. and O. mail, with the advices dated as above from China and the Straits Settlements, was delivered, via Brindisi, on Saturday, being two days in advance of its due date. The Pacific mail, bringing one day's later news from Yokohama, also reached London on Saturday. The next inward (French) mail, from Yokohama 2nd, Shanghai 5th, Hong Kong 11th, Singapore 18th Jan., which is due, via Marseilles, on Monday next, the 19th inst. left Suez on the 5th inst., four days early, and may be expected in London on Wednesday or Thursday.

List of Passengers.

PASSENGERS INWARD.

By this mail to Brindisi, arrived Feb. 7.—None. To Venice, arrived Feb. 10.—From Singapore: Mr. L. Carter. To Southampton, per P. and O. steamer *Kaadias*, expected to arrive Feb. 18.—From Yokohama: Mr. Escombe. From Hong Kong: Mr. J. Fischer, Mr. A. Le B. Corrie, and three second-class passengers. From Penang: Major Baitya. From Galle: Dr. Hughes.

PASSENGERS OUTWARD.

Per French steamer *Djemah*, from Marseilles, Feb. 11.—To Yokohama: Mr. and Mrs. Pierret. To Shanghai: Mr. Arranger, Mr. Bistehweber, Mr. and Mrs. Doversia, Mr. E. C. Talbot, Mr. and Mrs. Bishop. To Hong Kong: Mr. Forbes Angus, Mr. and Mrs. Cowles, Mr. and Mrs. P. Burgess Smith, Mr. G. M. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Hanschild, Mr. Scheib, Mr. Kammerer. To Saigon: Mr. M. Lacoste, Mr. Voels. To Batavia: Mr. and Mrs. Thooft, Mr. Corbillion. To Singapore: Mr. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Dudenovic, Mr. Ferrusson, Mr. B. E. Woods, Mr. Tombes, Mr. Tiele, Mrs. Gamasa, Mrs. Burland, Mr. A. Salazar, Mrs. Davies and two children. To Galle: Mr. Le Bras.

Per steamer *Glenarig*, from London, to sail Feb. 11.—To Singapore: Mr. George Lake, Mr. A. Weil. To Hong Kong: Mr. C. F. Friesick, Mr. H. J. C. Otto. To Shanghai: Mr. J. Wilson.

Per French steamer *Iravaddy*, from Marseilles, Feb. 25.—To Shanghai: Mr. and Mrs. Beasley and two children, Mr. W. Howie, Mr. Gilman. To Hong Kong: Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Morris, Mr. B. B. Blackwell, Hon. Cecil Smith and family, Mr. Otley. To Batavia: Mr. and Mrs. F. B. de la Riviere, Mr. Jockes. To Singapore: Mr. B. P. Prak, Mr. Vitte. To Colombo: Mr. and Mrs. Hayes.

Per French steamer *Sindh*, from Marseilles, March 11.—To Yokohama: Mr. De Go-froy and suite, Mr. Wolf. To Shanghai: Mr. J. L. Scott, Mr. S. Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. Vapereux, Mr. J. R. Bromley, Mr. M. F. Evans, Mr. J. Findlay, Mr. Hawes, Mr. F. S. Dacron, Mr. Ballance. To Hong Kong: Mr. F. S. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. N. May, Mr. J. H. Pinckroft, Mr. and Mrs. Siegfried. To Batavia: Mr. J. M. C. Paten, Mr. Huet. To Colombo: Mr. E. Johnstone.

Per French steamer *Meikong*, from Marseilles, March 25.—To Shanghai: Mr. Brumat.
Per French steamer *Assa*, from Marseilles, April 8.—To Hong Kong: Mr. C. Sinclair.
Per P. and O. steamer *Nepaul*, from Southampton, Feb. 8.—To Yokohama: Mrs. Ellerton and family, Mr. Rohde, Captain Purvis, R.N. To Singapore: Dr. T. O. Donelan. To Colombo: Mr. Cochran, Mr. W. J. Martin.
Per P. and O. steamer *Pera*, from Venice, Feb. 15.—To Shanghai: Mr. R. Anderson.
Per P. and O. steamer *Peshawar*, from Southampton, Feb. 22.—To Shanghai: Mr. A. Capel. To Hong Kong: Mr. and Mrs. Seaford. To Penang: Major C. E. Squire. To Galle: Mr. H. R. Trafford, Mr. G. Munro, Mr. A. Urquhart, Mr. F. D. Simpson.
Per P. and O. steamer *Ceylon*, from Venice, March 3.—To Singapore: Dr. and Mrs. Bowell.
Per P. and O. steamer *Ceylon*, from Brindisi, March 5.—To Penang: Mr. J. H. Brown, Mr. J. Tait.

Per steamer *Aulcor* (Holt's line), from Liverpool, Feb. 4.—To Singapore: Mrs. Blair and child, Mrs. Leek and family. To Hong Kong: Rev. Mr. Henderson.
Per Nederland Company's steamer *Criske*, from Southampton, Feb. 6.—To Java: Mr. Studnitski, Mrs. Lessing, Mrs. E. A. Van de Bree, Mrs. F. E. Eche, Mrs. B. H. Gatsionides, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. M. B. Inojenlyff, Mr. W. S. Van de Bergh, Junr., Mr. Ruken Patah, Mr. P. J. Van Haren Noman, Mr. Pohlkamp, with daughter and son, Mr. P. P. de Crane, Mr. P. Glatener, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. A. Ailing Siberg and child, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Van Houten and two children, Mr. P. J. Eussen, Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Hoogeveen, Mr. D. Albright, Mr. A. F. Wolters, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Kelfkens and child, Mr. Max Dieffenbach, Mr. C. J. F. Gaillard, Mr. A. Hekmayer, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Gelderman and two children, Mr. J. C. Bal, Mr. H. Hering; eight subaltern officers, and 150 soldiers.

Summary of News from the Far East.

JAPAN.

YOKOHAMA.

The present P. and O. mail brings advices from this port to the 27th December, and we have advices by the Pacific Mail Company's steamer *Alaska*, via San Francisco, one day later, viz., to the 28th December. The French mail from London, November 3, was received on the 23rd December. The *Japan Herald* supplies the following items of news:—

Perfect stagnation has reigned in the political world, and we are without a single item of importance to relate. We noticed in our last that the principal leaders of the late insurrection had been beheaded, and Oki, the Minister of Justice, who had presided at the trials, has since returned to Tokio, and has been received by the Mikado. No sooner has this abortive effort been stamped out, than other but lesser disturbances arise. Shortly after the departure of last mail the farmers rose in Ibaraki *ken*, and for some days matters looked serious, but, depressed apparently by the loss of their leaders (who were killed), the rioters have dispersed. The same paper, however, which announces the suppression of this outbreak, states that another has broken out at Miye, which is apparently of a more serious nature, and bodies of policemen have been despatched to the scene of the troubles. Rumours also of a strong feeling of irritation being prevalent in the *Satsuma ken* are again found in the native papers. In fact, there is, as we have before remarked, a strong feeling of dissatisfaction throughout the country, which sooner or later must break out. The sole reliance of the Government would appear to be on its armed forces, for the *samurai* are enraged at the sweeping away of their privileges and the confiscation of their incomes, whilst the labouring classes are ground to the dust to pay the cost and expenditures of imitating European manners and customs which gives the present veneer (for it is no more) of civilisation to the Japanese.

During the three months that the German frigate *Vineta* has been lying in Yokohama harbour the conduct of the men, whenever they have been ashore, has been exemplary; there has been no complaint against them either at police station or at Consulate. But on the very eve of the ship's departure some of the crew got into a drunken brawl, which already has cost one life, and may cost more. It would appear that about a score of the *Vineta's* men got leave to go ashore, and proceeded to Takashima-cho, where they were drinking in a brothel. As they became noisy and quarrelsome, the proprietor sent for the Japanese police, and the man-of-war's men left the house between

five and six P.M.; but in the streets they came in collision with the *jinrikisha* men, whose vehicles and lanterns they wantonly broke. They proceeded on foot towards Yokohama, over the waste land between the sea and the railway, followed by a mob of coolies, who had armed themselves with clubs and fragments of the broken *jinrikisha*. Here it would appear that a running fight was kept up. When the European police arrived on the spot they found one sailor lying dead on the ground, with the back of his skull stove in and the right ear almost lopped off; another sailor with a deep hole in his head was fetched from the Takashima-chō police station and sent to the British Naval Hospital, where he now lies in a very precarious condition. Four sailors, more or less grievously wounded, were conveyed last night on board the ship. Several of the Japanese have been badly handled too, and are now in hospital. There is an inquiry now going on in the Kencho, at which the German Consul is present. We understand that there is a faint hope of the recovery of the sailor who lies wounded in the British Naval Hospital.

A meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan was held on the 13th December at the Grand Hotel, Yokohama. In the absence of the president and vice-presidents Dr. Hopburn occupied the chair. The minutes of the last meeting, held in Tokio on the 22nd November, were read and approved, and the election at the meeting of the council of the Rev. A. L. Amerman as a member of the Society was announced. Mr. Russell Robertson then read a paper on the Caroline Islands. Mr. J. C. Hall made some interesting observations on the two races that are found in the islands of the Pacific, remarking that our knowledge of the Brown or Malay race is far in excess of that which we possess of the Black race; and added some information respecting the languages or dialects spoken. Mr. Cole, a visitor, stated that in consequence of the falling off of the yield in the pearl fisheries off the north of Australia, expeditions to the Caroline Islands were more frequently fitted out from Singapore than had hitherto been the case. He thought that the hostile disposition shown at one of the islands might possibly be considered as an indication that kidnapping had been practised at that particular island. The Chairman then expressed his sense of the value of the paper, and requested Mr. Robertson to convey to its author the thanks of the Society.

The Japanese Government having assumed the sovereignty of the Bonin Islands has despatched a number of officials there to administer the Islands. The British Government not deeming it worth while to hold and occupy the Islands has relinquished them in favour of the Japanese; but as there are some British subjects there, Constable Hodges, from the British Consulate, has been despatched as Envoy Extraordinary, having with him a quantity of clothing and other presents of a utilitarian character, and a proclamation, enjoining the British residents to behave respectfully towards the Japanese officials, but at the same time informing them that as they retain their rights as British subjects they are not amenable to Japanese law, and that the British Consul at Yokohama can always be appealed to by them, and that they are, as heretofore, under his jurisdiction.

We are informed that the Gas Committee intend to canvass the tenants in the settlement for subscriptions towards lighting the streets from the beginning of the New Year. It is proposed to ask for a subscription of two per cent. on the monthly rental as assessed, and when it from the subscriptions promised has become beyond doubt that the required amount, about \$470 monthly, can be raised, then a document will be sent round to receive the signatures of the subscribers. We understand that the plan of saving expense by not lighting the lamps during ten moonlight nights every month has been abandoned, and it is proposed that the streets shall be lighted every night.

The Pilotage Service of this port has long been a subject of complaint to all interested in maritime affairs, and following the advice of the foreign newspapers the Government has, at last, issued regulations for licensing pilots. These are not compulsory on Europeans; they are optional for them. There will, in future, be no excuse for taking the first man who presents himself as pilot, as all who are competent can now obtain licenses from the Japanese Government.

A football match—Yokohama v. Yedo and H.M.S. *Modeste*—has been played, and produced a well-contested game. Yokohama at first laboured under a slight disadvantage as some of her players did not turn up until late; still the game went on, until just before half-time a goal was obtained for the strangers from a good place-kick by Mr. Strange. Ends were then changed, and the ball was kept going, now in the neighbourhood of one goal, now of the other; but when time was called no further success had been obtained on either side, and the Settlement, therefore, remained the losers, and suffered their first defeat of the season.

The launch of the new lightship took place on the 18th Dec. at Benten, and was in every respect most successful. The present vessel is built on the same plan as the older ones. She is 74 feet in length, 13 feet in breadth, and is 96 tons builder's measurement. She has been constructed throughout of *kiaki*, and appears to be most substantially put together.

The subscription list which was opened at the *Herald* office, in aid of the sufferers by the late fire at Tokio, is now closed,

and the total amount contributed, viz., \$2,208.43 has been forwarded to the Tokio Fu for distribution.

Business has been in a very unsettled condition during the fortnight, owing to the fluctuations in exchange, but the advent of the holidays has, at present, caused a temporary lull.

The annual meetings of the Race Club and Athletic Association have been held. The usual paper hunt season has commenced, the opening meet being held on the 16th December.

A pamphlet, advocating the advantages of Meteorological science, has been published by Mr. Joyner, the chief of that department of the Government service.

The U.S. flagship *Tennessee* left for Hong Kong on the 17th December. The U.S.S. *Palos* is the only American vessel of war in port.

We take the subjoined items of intelligence from the weekly issues of the *Japan Mail* of 10th and 23rd December:—

The annual meeting of the Yokohama Race Club was held at the Chamber of Commerce Rooms on the 22nd December, when there were present:—Messrs. Bennett, Braun, Brewer, Buckle, Center, Cope, Cruickshank, D'Hauger, Dodds, Dunlop, Evers, Fitz-Henry, J. A. Fraser, Francke, Glennie, Haswell, Hay, Heinemann, Johnstone, Keswick, Kirkwood, Middleton, A. Mitchell, Mollison, Pinn, O. Reimers, Strachan, Vouillemont, J. Walter, A. Winstanley, and Wolffs. Mr. J. A. Fraser was voted into the chair, and briefly explained that the object of the meeting was to receive and pass the treasurer's accounts for the past year, and to elect a committee in place of the retiring one. He congratulated the members on the extremely satisfactory state of their finances, which proved that the unfortunate schism which had occurred during the year had not done the club any material harm, as was shown by the balance in hand being somewhat larger than it was at the close of the previous year. The accounts as presented were passed unanimously. The next business was to elect a committee for the ensuing year, and the ballot resulted in the election of the following gentlemen, all of whom, it was understood, were willing to serve:—Messrs. W. J. Cruickshank, C. Braun, A. Evers, E. B. Watson, and F. E. Foster.

The annual general meeting of the Athletic Association has taken place at the Grand Hotel, the following members being present:—Messrs. A. H. Dare, Kilby, Walker, Pinn, Mitchell, Brooke, Dodds, Watson, Smith, Hutchison, Reid, Jeyes, J. J. Dare, Scott, and Henley. Mr. Dodds was voted into the chair. The report was passed unanimously. It was notified that all the retiring committee, with the exception of Mr. Walker, offered themselves for re-election. Mr. C. P. Hall was elected in the place of Mr. Walker, so that the committee for next year consists of Messrs. Hamilton, Kilby, Dodds, Hall and A. H. Dare. Some slight alterations in the rules of the club were next proposed and adopted. Mr. Watson proposed that there should be several champion cups to be run for at three succeeding meetings, and remarked that by reason of the handicapping the really most efficient competitors came in second best in most events. After some discussion this point was finally settled by Mr. Julius Dare promising to present a cup on the terms proposed. Some discussion then ensued with regard to sending invitations to the Kobe, Nagasaki, Shanghai and Hong Kong athletes to visit and take part in the spring meeting. This proposition being adopted, after a vote of thanks to the Chairman the meeting dispersed.

The news from Nagoya concerning the *Miye ken* is sufficiently alarming. Telegraphic despatches announce that a serious disturbance has broken out among the farmers of Ise, who seem to have given way to uncontrolled riot, the cause being their objection to the new mode of levying the land-tax. The outbreak commenced at Kumodzu, the rioters from which place were quickly joined by some from Uyeno, Kambe, Yokkaichi, and Kuwana in the *Miye ken*, and others from the neighbouring *Aichi ken*. As they gained in numbers they seemed to have increased in violence, and it is reported that the important towns of Tsu and Matsuzaka and the smaller ones of Uyeno and Shirou have been set fire to, and it is also feared that Yokkaichi has not entirely escaped. Traffic along the Tokaido is interrupted. Mr. Kitadai, *Gon Daijo* of the *Naimusho*, with other officials and a strong force of police, have been despatched by steamer to the disturbed district, and it is to be presumed that the troops of the Nagoya garrison will be called upon to assist in suppressing the riot.

The riots may, we presume, be traced to two principal causes; first, the obligations of the farmers to pay a fixed tax in money for the produce of their lands, instead of a fluctuating tax depending upon the yield of the year; and, secondly, to certain alterations which have been made in the land-tax. We know too little of the economy of the interior of Japan to write with any certainty on these subjects, but it may be presumed that this obligation to pay the land-tax in money presses severely on the farmer when rice is low, as it is at present. More than this. It is obvious that in order to convert the rice into money he must send it to some neighbouring town for sale, and if this is done by a large number of men at the same time with the same object of early sale the price must be unnaturally depressed.

In the Kanagawa Saibansho judgment has been given in the case of Malcolm, Wilcox, and Co., v. Yokoyama Yensuke, in

favour of defendant. The Court found that the velvet to which the suit had been made was according to sample quite contradicted by the evidence, and, in consequence, defendant was quite justified in refusing to take delivery of the goods, and therefore gave a verdict in accordance.

The long-felt want of a system of pilotage regulations has been filled by the issue of a code under the hands of the Prime Minister.

The *Japan Mail* also supplies the following extracts from native newspapers:—

The *Naimusho* has given orders for the various *ken* in the south that enrolled an extra number of police constables during the late troubles that such extra forces can now be disbanded, as tranquillity having been restored the services of the men are no longer required.

The session of the *Genro-In* was closed on the 20th December, without any ceremony. The Mikado was not present on the occasion.

The duties taken at the Yokohama Custom-house from the 1st of January to the 20th of December, 1876, amounted to yen 1,476,511.16.

An inspection of proposed harbour limits was made on the 20th December by officials of the Custom-house and Kanagawa *Kencho*.

An epidemic has broken out among the horses in the capital, to which many of those in the Imperial stable have succumbed.

Some officials of the Bureau of Agriculture are to be sent to America for the purpose of purchasing some eighty head of cattle.

It is reported that severe famine prevails in Korea, and that the people have not enough seed rice left for the next year's crop.

Premises for a Fifth National Bank are to be built in the Tochiuri-bori, Osaka.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

YOKOHAMA, DEC. 26.

Since the date of my last the Silk Market has undergone another sudden reaction. Orders have been received direct from home by the houses here to buy, and they have done their best to do so. The cessation of the warlike telegrams which followed each other with such iteration almost daily during about six weeks, and made all the silk-men here wear troubled brows, enters for much into the present state of affairs. Or, perhaps, as no despatches, announcing authentically that all chance of a European war has ceased to exist for the time, have been received, people's fancies have become calmed by familiarity with the apprehensions which circumstances have caused them to entertain, and they have resumed that course of speculation without which their lives are a desert, a treeless, waterless, waste of unenjoyable, and too prolonged existence. So they buy silk now as of yore; but they are sadly harassed by the Japanese holders, who know as well as they do, or better, as certain official sources of information are open to them and closed to foreigners, what is passing in Europe, and have taken some of the choicest and most inquired-for sorts virtually out of the market, by putting prices on them which are prohibited, even to speculators. However, some business has been done during the past fortnight, which has not witnessed, however, anything like the brisk competition which enlivened the early days of the now fast-closing season.

Serious agrarian riots are reported from nearly all the provinces, and the military have been called out in force to aid the local authorities and the police to suppress them. These riots are nothing like so dangerous as the recently quenched insurrection, but they are more serious, being, as they are, the outcome of a wide-spread disaffection among an ordinarily most peaceable and law-abiding class, feeling itself oppressed by an injudicious measure. The Japanese farmer must have a real solid grievance before he will rise against constituted authority. He asks not to be taxed more than flesh and blood can bear, and that is about all he does ask for. And his Government just now is taxing him to an extent and in a manner which he cannot bear. To alter the land tax at all was bad enough for him, but to attempt to collect it in money instead of in kind pressed so grievously on him that his discontent has found vent in a perfectly futile insurrection. For there can be no manner of doubt that the Government which was strong enough only a few weeks ago to suppress a rising of armed, intrepid, and organised samurai, backed by the powerful, if secret, influence of nobles and gentry, who remained quiet in appearance, while all the moral support they could give was given to the movement, it will find it easy to suppress disquiet among undisciplined and half-armed peasants. It is matter of hope that when the rising is effectually put down the attention of the Government will be directed towards the consideration and enactment of measures of alleviation of existing distress and prevention of future complaints. The proper course to pursue is so simple that I need not take the time to indicate it here. Meanwhile, the peasantry are up in arms in various provinces. Several officials have been killed, telegraph wires have been cut, and more or less successful at-

tempts have been made to set towns and villages on fire. Whole quarters have been burned in Nagoya and Yokkaichi, in which latter place it is said that the offices of the Mitsu Bichi Company were destroyed. A town called Tsu, in Ise, is reported as almost levelled with the ground. In some few instances the revolted farmers are aided by the Shizoku, but for the most part people of the latter class, though they have their own grievances against the existing Government, yet take its part against the despised tillers of the soil. An instance of this occurred at Tsu, where seven armed Shizoku encountered a band of twenty or more peasants and ordered them to disperse. Being disobeyed, they attacked the peasants with fury, killed five of them, and put the rest to flight, after which they cut off the heads of the slain and exposed them in front of the school-house.

As the Bonin Islands have been decided to be worthless to Great Britain, and as America does not care to possess them, it has been generously decided that Japan can keep them and do what she likes with them. So in spite of the copper plate, dated 1827, which announced that Captain Beechey, R.N., of the *Beagle*, I think, had taken possession of the Bonins in the name of King George, which copper plate was found on the islands by Mr. Consul Robertson last summer, the Japanese Empire may count the Bonins as one of her dependencies. Mr. Ohana, an official of the Home-office, who was at the head of an abortive attempt to colonise the islands some fifteen years ago, has been appointed Governor, and has left with some future colonists for the seat of his government. But as there happen to be on the islands some waifs and strays of humanity who are entitled to if they do not claim British protection, a constable from H.B.M.'s Consular Court has gone with Mr. Ohana, and taken to the islanders, the modern "Swiss Family Robinson," presents of clothing, and what we should call necessities as well as the sublime assurance that they are British subjects, and owe Mr. Ohana no allegiance. The extra-territoriality clause of the treaty with Japan throws itsegis over the British exiles, who it is to be hoped will not vex the soul of his Japanese Excellency too much; for if they are cantankerous he will have no jurisdiction over them; but will have to send them some four or five hundred miles to Yokohama, to be adjudicated upon. There is something to be proud of in being a Britisher in Japan after this; and I hope the old lady who thought the Bonin Islands a paradise because, as she told Mr. Robertson, "they paid no taxes there" will be duly alive to the sentiment.

Mr. E. Peshine Smith, a lawyer of Rochester, U.S.A., who filled the post of adviser to the Government till August last, wore Japanese clothes, and the swords of a samurai, claimed to be nothing but "a poor, heathen Japanese," disowned his country, and refused to register as an American citizen in the Consulate of his country, went bareheaded in the broiling sun, and did Japan his best piece of service when he left her shores, has been the cause of a quarrel which reflects no credit upon any of the persons concerned in it. The editor of the *Japan Weekly Mail*, in commenting editorially upon General Van Buren's decision in the case of the *Tokio-fu versus Batchelder*, took occasion to treat the departed (for America) Mr. Smith to a few choice epithets, such as "demon," "tippler," "crumpulous dotard," and by implication "rogue" and "impostor." Now it is not dignified to abuse, in terms such as these, an absent man who has no chance to defend himself, and I must confess to some surprise at the editor of the *Mail* allowing himself to descend to such scurrility. He did not escape unchallenged, however, for in a letter to the *Japan Gazette* a gentleman, whose identity is now as well established as if he had signed his own name *liberating*, under the initials "E. P. S." called Mr. Smith's critic a "liar" and a "coward." He further sent his card to the office of the paper, and the name of a friend to whom all possible communications on the subject, as far as it concerned him, could be sent. The public, anxious for some excitement, thought that blood must surely flow, particularly when it was bruited abroad that the editor of the *Mail* had answered the letter, and had appointed a friend to consult with the friend of "E. P. S." I feel inclined to blame the two friends for spoiling a pretty quarrel. They prevailed upon "E. P. S." to write a letter withdrawing the offensive terms. This second letter also appeared in the *Gazette*, and is beautifully Pickwickian. The gist of it is that the editor of the *Mail* is a — and a c — in his office, while out of it he is "truthful" and "heroic." Strange to say the editor of the *Mail* did not see the absurdity—he says that he only read the original letter in his office, and insisted upon three words being struck out—and transferred the letter, as though it were a complete apology, into the columns of his *Daily Advertiser*. Next day he saw the mistake he had made, and waxed more furious than ever. He said that he did not accept the letter as a "sufficient, or indeed as any, apology; and in his last weekly issue has done everything but disclose the name of his antagonist, who, in his turn, in a letter headed No. 3, in this evening's *Gazette*, accuses the editor of the *Mail* of breach of faith; and while attempting to vindicate his own character, makes the confusion worse confounded. Whoever he may be, he might well say with Sir Andrew Aguecheek, "Had I known he were valiant and so cunning of fence, I'd have seen him d—d ere I'd have challenged him."

NAGASAKI.

The *Cosmopolitan Press* says it is a very considerable time since Nagasaki harbour presented its now lively appearance. The influx of shipping has made a great commotion in local comradore circles, and countenances which but a week ago looked sad and depressed now beam with joy and delight. Attempts are being made to establish an athletic club in Nagasaki.

The *Rising Sun* says a match at football between residents and the officers of H.B.M.'s gun-vessel *Thistle* resulted in the victory of the latter. The same paper states that the American corvette *Fantic* and H.B.M.'s gunboat *Midge*, both homeward bound, have left Nagasaki. On passing the men-of-war in harbour they were greeted with loud cheers, to which the respective crews responded in the most hearty manner.

CHINA.

PEKING.

It will be remembered that a *cause célèbre* was ordered up from the Chekeang province, to be retried before the Board of Punishments at Peking, in the beginning of the year. The appellant was a literary graduate, named Yang Nai-wu, who had been tried and convicted of conspiring with a woman named Koh to poison her husband. It was alleged that he had an intrigue with this lady, and that he bought arsenic and gave it to her, promising to marry her when her husband was removed. A druggist gave evidence that arsenic had been bought by the accused, and the latter was condemned to death. The sentence, however, seems to have been so notoriously unjust that the gentry and literati of the neighbourhood took the matter warmly up. Appeal after appeal was sent to Peking, and the case was three times referred back for re-hearing, but the decision of the local authorities was each time upheld. Still, backed by a Censor named Pien Pao-tuan, the appellants would not give up, and at last compelled the interference of the Peking Government, who ordered the whole case to be retried before the Board of Punishments at the capital. The accused and all the witnesses were ordered to be sent to Peking; and a circumstance occurred at the outset which went far to confirm the charge of unfair dealing brought against the officials. The principal witness against Yang Nai-wu had been the druggist, who affirmed he had bought the arsenic. But directly after leaving the Court, this man confessed that he had given false evidence. When the order came for the witnesses to be sent to Peking, this man was of course arrested with the others, but died suddenly after partaking of a meal with the runners on his way to the Yamen! The remainder of those concerned appear to have reached the capital, where the accused was found to have been cruelly tortured, although the officials had strenuously denied in their memorials that any such means had been used. Eventually even the corpse of the murdered man was ordered to be taken to Peking; and a long letter in the *Shunpao* now affirms that the Board have satisfied themselves that the whole charge was unfounded, although their decision has not yet been proclaimed.

The *Peking Gazette* of the 11th December contains a decree appointing two new members to the Yamen of Foreign Affairs, in the person of Li Hung-tao, President of the Board of Works, and King-lien, the chief of the Censorate, these two high functionaries being at the same time members of the Grand Council of State, and the only two members of that body who have not hitherto been associated with the Department of Foreign Affairs. Their appointment is presumably made in connection with the vacancies caused by the death of Wen-siang in May last and the recent departure of Kwoh Sung-tao for Europe.

In the same *Gazette* a decree appears deploring the death of Ch'ung-shih, in the post of Military Governor of Sheng-king; and announcing that his brother, Ch'ung-how, left Peking on the following day to succeed him at Moukden.

HANKOW.

A correspondent of the *Celestial Empire* writes, under date 23rd Dec., as follows:—

H.M.S. *Kestrel* returned to this port on the 20th Dec. She was under orders to proceed at once to Ichang with Mr. W. King, H.B.M.'s Consul at Kiukiang, provided she could do so without danger of running aground. The river is so shallow, however, that it was thought advisable to put off the expedition until next year, when the water begins to rise. It is said that in one place between this and Ichang there is no more than three feet of water.

The Hankow Amateur Dramatic Club have treated us to their first performance this season. The pieces chosen were *The Original* and *Nursery Chickweed*. Both were very successful, the result in no small degree of the energy of the manager, who himself took a leading part. Judging from this first effort, our theatrical corps is as strong as ever, in spite of the loss of one or two of our leading actors of last season.

The U.S.S. *Monocacy* is expected here shortly.

SHANGHAI.

The present mail brings advices from this port to the 29th December; the P. and O. mail from London Nov. 10 was re-

ceived on the 25th December. The *North China Herald* contains the following summary—

The week has been kept pretty nearly as a general holiday. The Public Offices closed from Friday to Tuesday, and the intervening days were a blank as regards anything but amusement. A Drag Hunt was had on Saturday, Paper Hunts on Friday and Monday, and a Drag Hunt again on Tuesday. But we have little else to record in the shape of incidents during the week. While more willing perhaps than any other people to seek their fortunes abroad, Englishmen have a marked propensity for transplanting their old customs and old sports to their new home. They play cricket even under the sultry sun of India; they have horse races alike in Canada or New Zealand, in Hong Kong or Barbadoes. In default of foxes they hunt kangaroos in Australia, and in default of either, they hunt paper in Shanghai, and have even organised an imaginary fox, which the hounds follow with as much zest as if the real animal were before them. But to no custom do they cling more kindly than to that of the Christmas festival. "Christmas comes but once a-year," and that is a good reason for making the most of it, which certainly we in Shanghai show no disposition to overlook. The stores are filled with toys for young folk, and more finished and costly presents for their elders. Business establishments are closed; and all the world makes holiday. Coolies carrying Christmas (fir) trees are to be seen in every street, and the sale of evergreens assumes the proportion of a distinct industry. The hills around Ningpo are laid under contribution for holly, and our halls and dining-rooms are decorated in a way not unworthy of the old country. Nor do the dinner tables suffer by comparison. Decidedly the national propensity to celebrate every event by a banquet is not weakened by residence in the Far East. Whether in the houseboat up country, or in the dining-room in the Settlements, we may be sure that good cheer abounds, and hearty toasts are drunk to the "old folks at home," whose customs we copy. And it is well that we should perpetuate these celebrations. Kindliness, hospitality, and friendship are promoted by such genial meetings, and memories are awakened and chords struck that are, perhaps, too apt to lie dormant amid the drive and worry of our daily life. It is well that we should cast aside for a brief space the anxieties of business; and we believe no people possess the faculty of doing so, and "going in" for enjoyment while they are about it, more thoroughly than do the foreign residents in Shanghai.

We mentioned last week that Mr. Davenport had gone overland to Chinkeang, with the object of ascertaining that the proclamations announcing the settlement of the Yunnan case were posted in accordance with the stipulation. It is satisfactory to learn that they were found properly exhibited everywhere; both inside and outside the town, and at conspicuous places in the large thoroughfares in the country. Some were simply posted on the walls, but the greater part were on boards, which are hung up during the day and carried in at night. A copy of the proclamation has been posted up at Wuchang under what Olyphant calls the tunnel, where there are always crowds of people passing, and another near the great book establishment in the city; but these are insufficient. It is especially at the gates that copies should be placed.

A meeting of the Committee of the Chinese Polytechnic Institution and Reading-Room was held on the 15th December. The year's accounts show a deficiency of about Tls. 1,000, which has been raised by loan on the security of the property. Mr. Medhurst has resigned the chairmanship of the committee in view of his approaching departure from Shanghai, and will be succeeded by Mr. Glover. The committee is to be strengthened by the introduction of more Chinese gentlemen. We are glad to see that an effort is to be made to complete the original intention had in view in founding the institution, and which has been half lost sight of under more pretentious schemes. Mr. Medhurst's original intention was to establish a reading-room, where especially translations of instructive foreign literature should be provided; and it will be well if this plan is thoroughly carried out. The ambitious project of an iron and glass building for an exhibition does not seem to advance. A report from the promoters of the Amoy Reading-Room shows that good progress has been made at that port on slender funds; but they do not appear to contemplate an exhibition just yet.

The Consul-General for the United States notifies that, on and after the 13th February next, no Lekin taxes shall be levied upon foreign imports within the limits of the foreign Settlements. This affirms the stipulation in Clause I. of the Trade Section of the Chefoo Convention,—with the difference, however, that it is understood the Ministers now at Peking do not accept the converse principle admitted by Sir Thomas Wade, that Lekin may be levied elsewhere. We only hope they see their way to defeating the levy; that is where the difficulty comes in. The limitation of the period within which drawback may be claimed, to three years, as stipulated in Clause V. of the Convention, is also agreed to, with the concession, however,—understood to have been gained by Mr. Von Brandt—that drawback certificates shall be payable in cash if the holder wishes, and not only be available for payment of duties as heretofore.

Two very beautiful windows have been placed in the south

nise of the Cathedral, in memory of the late Mr. Robert Reid, M.P. They represent "Joseph making himself known to his brethren," and are executed by Messrs. Lavers, Barrand, and Westlake, of Endell-street, London. In richness of colour and simplicity of design these windows have no rivals in the Cathedral. They have the genuine warm tint of ancient glass, which modern workers so long despaired of attaining, and the expressions of the faces are varied and admirable. The inscription reads as follows:—"To the Glory of God, and in affectionate remembrance of Robert Reid, M.P., late of Shanghai. Deceased 30th March, 1875. This window is erected by his brother David."

An action has been heard at the United States Consulate-General, before Mr. Myers, the Consul-General, and two associates, in which E. G. Goodwin sought to recover \$1,000 from Wm. Marshall for defamation of character. Goodwin was formerly third officer of the S.S.N. Co.'s steamer *Plymouth Rock*, and he alleged that he had been discharged through false representation made against him to Mr. Hitch, a partner in Messrs. Russell and Co., the agents of the company, by defendant, who is an engineer in the same service. The Court decided that there was insufficient evidence to substantiate the claim.

The trial of Thomas Henry Brown, charged with the attempted robbery of the *Hupek's* treasure, held at the U.S. Consulate-General, has been concluded. No further evidence was adduced, and the legal gentlemen on each side having addressed the Court, the Consul-General and the two associates retired to consider their decision. They found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, and ordered to pay a fine of one dollar and the costs of the prosecution.

The new stern-wheel steamer *Pao-Kong*, built by Messrs. Farnham and Co., has had another trial trip. The route taken was up the river, and in an hour and seventeen minutes a point called Saikong was reached, the distance completed being computed at about twenty miles. This, of course, makes her speed about fifteen miles an hour. She was then turned round and made an equally successful return passage.

H.B.M.'s *Charybdis* has arrived with the *Lapwing*, having accomplished the passage from the Gulf of Pechili with apparently little difficulty. The hull of the *Lapwing* is somewhat damaged, and it is expected she will go into dock in a few days.

The German barque *Pallas*, just arrived from Sydney, grounded in the river at Woosung at 8 a.m. on the 25th Dec., and was unable to get off on the three subsequent tides. She sustained no damage.

On Christmas-day some benevolent Chinese forwarded to the Central Police-station, for distribution, by Mr. Penfold, 2,000 padded cotton jackets. The only restriction accompanying the gift was that jinricksha runners should be first served, and hundreds of these were supplied the same afternoon. The distribution of the surplus was left to Mr. Penfold's discretion.

The military examinations which have been going on during the last month in Wuchang have ended, and the list of successful candidates is published. Forty-one only, out of a list of two thousand, have attained a degree; and of these six are Manchus from the garrison of Kweichow.

Messrs. Bisset and Co. report as follows upon the Share market:—

H. and S. Bank.—Sales are reported at 22 per cent. and 23 per cent. premium, with exchange 72; the market closes firm at the latter rate. S.S.N. Co.—A number of shares were placed last week at Tls. 65 cash, and Tls. 67½ for 31st January; a demand has set in, and buyers now offer Tls. 66 for cash shares, but holders are firm, and no transactions are reported since the holidays. Yangtze Insurance Association.—A sale at Tls. 620 is reported. Other stocks are quiet.

The offertory on Christmas Day at the Cathedral amounted to Tls. 430.

The weather has been delightful during the week; the thermometer has ranged from 34 to 54.

The *Celestial Empire* supplies the subjoined items of intelligence:—

A good deal of difficulty still crops up from time to time with native couriers, &c., in the interior. Some months ago a courier carrying packages from our office to Szechuan and Kweichow was waylaid, beaten, and robbed, because it was known that he was in possession of foreign papers; and now we hear that between Hankow and Chungking there are perpetual interruptions. These are believed to occur principally at Kwei Fu, where, we are informed, a very anti-foreign individual, noted for his obstructiveness, has been placed in charge of the *likin* office. There seems to be still great dissatisfaction in Yunnan, all the officials there expressing themselves much mortified at the results of the Chefoo Convention, particularly those clauses which concede the right of establishing commercial intercourse with that province *via* Burmah. The affair had been left so long in abeyance that they thought themselves safe from molestation, having come to the conclusion that we were evidently unable to enforce our rights. The only regret to our mind is that these "rights" should have been mentioned in any Treaty whatever. They are self-existent and pre-existent, and stand far above all Treaty stipulations; or, rather, they constitute part of the only basis upon which Treaties can be concluded and international relations carried on. This is

one of the first elements of the diplomatic gospel, and we shall never tire of preaching it.

A meeting has been held at the house of Rev. J. Lambuth, the occasion being one of an exceptionally interesting character. A very large representation of the missionaries at Shanghai gathered to meet with and welcome Bishop Marvin, of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America, who is on an Episcopal tour of all the Oriental Missions of his Church. He has already visited Japan, and is *en route* for India, *via* the mission stations of China. After an unusually full and exhaustive conference upon the topic of the evening, to wit, "The Encouragements and Discouragements of Missionary Work in China," the missionaries, with other friends present, had the pleasure of listening to some forcible and interesting remarks from the Bishop, to the personal part of which a brief and telling response was made, on behalf of the assembled missionaries, by the Rev. William Muirhead.

Our Kwei-chow correspondent writes under date 30th Nov.:—Since my last we have heard of an insurrection in Kwang si, and now we hear of troubles at the Kwei-fuh Customs and Lekin Barrier in Sze-chuan. It was also quietly rumoured last week that H.I. Majesty Kwang-su had died of some dreadful disease, or other cause. It is probable that the report of trouble in Kwang-si is true, but the rest may be only the false reports set afloat by members of secret societies. From Ky-chow, a city about 160 li from here, we learn that the people have seized the Che-chow, or Magistrate, and are bringing him here as a prisoner for having unlawfully levied or imposed an extra amount of Grain tax. The military examinations which commenced on the 19th inst. are nearly ended, and everything is going on very quietly. The local issue of the *Peking Gazette* not having yet appeared, there is a good demand for the *Shunpan*, as people are anxious to know the results of the "Chefoo Conference." Mining operations are again at a standstill for the want of capital and genuine enterprise.

The special services appropriate to the season of Christmas were ushered in at Trinity Cathedral on Christmas-eve, which, this year, fell upon Sunday evening. The decorations of the Cathedral show a marked improvement upon those of previous years, in that the colours are warmer and brighter than has been the case heretofore. The pulpit and the reredos are panelled with bright crimson, emblazoned with white letters framed in dark glistening leaves; the choir stalls are also hung with crimson, while the pillars of the nave are entwined, as usual, with thick ropes of evergreen. The altar is draped in warm-white satin, edged with crimson picked out with amber; on this rests a small super-altar, inscribed with the word "Emmanuel," which, in its turn, is surmounted by a large cross made with admirable skill to represent icicles. The first object which strikes the eye, however, in entering the church from the main door is a huge white cross floating in mid air, under the chancel arch—a most effective and ingenious device. The font, however, is perhaps the *chef d'œuvre* of the whole, and reflects the highest credit upon the lady who claims this department as her *specialité*. Our Catholic friends observed the festival of Christmas in the same way as heretofore. It is hardly necessary to give a description of the services, as they differed in no essential point from those we described last year. The church is decorated with the falling banners of coloured silk, while the Bambino, brightly lighted up, occupies its usual place in front of the high altar.

A party of a dozen friends met this Christmas in Shanghai, who, being mostly old residents in China, had the curiosity to reckon up their several terms of sojourn in the country, and the aggregate was found to amount to no less than 266 years, giving to each an average of over twenty-two years. Seven of the party averaged thirty-one years each, six thirty-three years, and five thirty-four years; and we are happy to be able to add that the veterans are all enjoying the best of health.

The *Shen-pao* contains a sensible article about the *likin* taxation. It urges that the Government has now an opportunity to do away with the impost altogether, but expresses no hope that this will ever come to pass, the great stumbling-block being the interest of the mandarins in preserving its existence.

We are informed that his Excellency Ch'ung How, of Tientsin massacre celebrity, has recently been appointed to the Governorship of Moukden, *vice* his brother, who, hitherto, has held that post. The appointment is, however, we believe, a temporary one.

We notice that a series of papers on Chess—the English game—is about to appear in the *Shen-pao*. The writer is a Chinese, who has recently learnt to play, and is now most enthusiastic upon the subject.

FOOCHOW.

The subjoined items of intelligence are from the *Foochow Herald*:—

The tail cutting mania has reached the upper prefectures of this province, and the people are in a state of great agitation over it. It is affirmed at Yen-ping and the neighbouring places that many persons have had their tails cut off by some invisible agency. A missionary of the American Methodist Episcopal Mission, on his way up the river recently, noticed that the boatmen who were coming down from Yen-ping were unusually impudent, not only in calling out to him, with opprobrious epithets,

but in exclaiming, "You ought to be killed." "If you go to the upper prefectures you will get your head cut off," &c. When he came into the neighbourhood of Yen-ping he was met by a messenger who informed him that the magistrate wished him to delay his entrance a little while, so that he might first inform the people, and quiet their minds. He entered the city last Saturday, towards night, and stayed over Sunday, holding the usual services in the lately restored chapel. The services were not interrupted in any way, but the whole city was greatly stirred by the widespread rumours of mysterious hair cutting. Two girls, members of a family residing in the same house with one of the Christians, have had their hair cut off, and affirm solemnly that they have no knowledge of when, where, or how it was done. Intelligent persons believe it to be the work of people who wish to foment a rebellion.

The new Viceroy is not expected before the middle of next month. Immediately after the arrival of his Excellency, Ting Futai will, we hear, leave for Formosa, on an official tour of inspection. It is understood that the coal and petroleum districts of the island will engage the special attention of the Futai.

The Prefect and the local magistrates have within the last few days issued a stringent proclamation against the practice of female infanticide. It provides that all parents guilty of destroying a child shall be punished according to the law against the destruction of descendants, which it seems provides sixty blows and a year's imprisonment as the proper punishment.

HONG KONG.

Our advices by this mail extend to the 4th January; the French mail from London, Nov. 17, arrived out on the 29th December, and the following P. and O. mail of Nov. 24 was received on the 2nd January. The following items of news are from the *China Mail*:—

Mr. Philippo, the new Attorney-General, arrived on the 2nd from Singapore.

By the M.M. steamer *Meikong* on the 20th the new Governor of Macao, his Excellency Carlos Eugenio Correa da Silva, and family, and Dr. Ennos, the new Bishop of Macao, and nine priests, arrived here, en route for Macao. The Government launch *Victoria* was placed at the disposal of the illustrious visitors by the Colonial Government, and the Bishop landed shortly after three o'clock in her, whence he proceeded to the Hotel de l'Univers, where he is now staying. Immediately on the arrival of the *Meikong*, the Portuguese Reception Committee proceeded on board in the launch *Blanche*, to wait on his Excellency the Governor, and his Lordship the new Bishop. Shortly before four o'clock, the Governor landed in the barge of the Portuguese gunboat *Tejo* at Peddar's Wharf, where a Company of the 28th Regiment was formed as a guard of honour. As his Excellency landed, the band of the 28th struck up the National Anthem; and assembled at the wharf, to greet the new Governor, were a number of members of the Portuguese community. After a few salutations with some of the leading residents of Hong Kong and Macao, he proceeded on foot to the Hong Kong Hotel, where he is now staying. The shore battery fired a salute of seventeen guns as the Governor stepped on the wharf, and the *Tejo* manned yards when the barge passed her.

His Excellency Senhor Carlos Correia da Silva, the new Governor of Macao, was presented with an address from the Portuguese at their Club on the evening of the 20th of January. Shortly after nine o'clock his Excellency, accompanied by his aide-de-camp and the Colonial Secretary of Macao, arrived at the Club, where he was received by a large number of the most prominent Portuguese residents in the island, and conducted to the spacious ball-room. Here, after a few words from Mr. J. J. Remedios, the address to his Excellency, which was on satin, was read by Mr. Noronha, senior. It congratulated his Excellency on his safe arrival and that of his wife; wished him hearty success in his new sphere of duties, and trusted he would do his best to ameliorate the condition of Macao. His Excellency replied to the address in a speech which, although brief, was exceedingly vigorous. He said he was glad to have the opportunity of meeting such a large number of Portuguese here; that he regarded everyone of them and all Portuguese, whether resident here, at Macao, or elsewhere, as his countrymen, and would do his best for their interests, and he pledged his word of honour that everything he could do to improve the condition of Macao should be done. He thanked the community for the manner in which they had received him, and wished them and the colony all prosperity. Mr. Remedios proposed three cheers—one for his Excellency, another for the welfare of Macao, and a third for the Portuguese in China, and these having been energetically responded to the Governor in return proposed cheers for the King of Portugal and for the Hong Kong community. Wine was handed round in the course of the proceedings, and some selections were played on the piano. His Excellency took his departure for Macao in the Portuguese gunboat *Tejo*. It was also intended to present an address to the new bishop, but owing to his lordship being unwell this part of the proceedings was postponed.

Amongst the list of articles presented to the City Hall Museum during the past ten days will be noted a model steam

laundry, which, as might be expected, attracts unusual attention from the native visitors—especially those to whose tender mercies our shirt buttons are every week consigned. The model is beautifully made in brass. At the extreme end is a highly-finished steam engine, working a long shaft whence bells communicate motion to the machines which perform the various processes. First comes the "stamper," which takes the place of the barbarous "stone beating" in vogue in Hong Kong. Next comes the "rinsing," then the "wringer," and finally the "mangler." A slight touch with the hand-iron renders the clothes requiring this finish fit for use, starching of course being provided for at one stage of the operations. At present the model is only a mournful monument of what might be done in Hong Kong if anybody with capital and perseverance enough took the subject in hand. It seems strange that no one has as yet come forward to emancipate the foreign residents from the thralldom of native dummies. We shall note the results of this exhibition of the model with some interest.

To another department two or three things of considerable interest have been added. Most of our readers have read of Chinese "fighting irons," but very few have ever seen one. A formidable iron flail, hanging up in the large hall, and which was recently captured from a piratical junk, will show visitors what a business-like weapon it is. In the hands of an unskilled user it is probably as dangerous to the user as to his enemies, but wielded by a practised hand it is certainly a terrific weapon. Some aboriginal Australian letters, consisting of pieces of wood carved and notched in fantastic design, are also curious. Their interpretation is placed beside them. The type-writing machine still continues to attract visitors, and we hope that its spirited inventors will find some market in Hong Kong.

We noted some days ago the rapid passage of the O. and O. Steamer *Oceanic* from this port to Yokohama, and it now appears that this fine vessel has kept up her speed during the passage over to California. She is reported by telegraph as having made the run from Yokohama to San Francisco in fourteen days and fifteen hours. Leaving Hong Kong on Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. she reached Yokohama at 5.40 a.m. on the 10th, and after remaining two days at that port, resumed her voyage on the 12th. She must have arrived at San Francisco on last Christmas-day, thus, with the allowance for the difference of time crossing the meridian, making the trip from Hong Kong to her destination in twenty steaming days, and twenty-two days from port to port. It is not every day that a passenger can leave Hong Kong on Dec. 4 and eat his Christmas dinner at San Francisco three weeks afterwards; but this is what has been done in this instance. Some idea may be formed of the distance run by the *Oceanic* when we state that the shortest route she could possibly have taken by following the "great circle" is about 6,200 miles.

Two sentences have within the last week or two been passed on prisoners at the police-court by the magistrates, which at the first blush doubtless appeared to many people as somewhat harsh, but we venture to think that to those who have carefully considered the cases, and are, so to speak, a little behind the scenes, the decisions will appear not only justifiable but deserving of hearty commendation. We refer to the case in which a Chinese constable was fined \$200 for a breach of the police regulations, and to another, which was heard the other day, where a woman, the second wife of a Chinese merchant, was sentenced to twenty-one days' imprisonment, and to find security for good behaviour for six months, for cruelly ill-using a little servant-girl. With regard to the first case we have very little to say. The circumstances as stated in the Court seemed to throw considerable suspicion upon the constable, that he had attempted to "squeeze" a prisoner to the extent of \$900 on the prospect of evading the police-court; the constable himself admitted that he had taken the prisoner to his house in the first instance, and that he had neglected to report the case. The suspicion, however, could not be proved against him, and the magistrate did all he could to vindicate the probity of the native police force here, and administer a severe caution to the constable by mulcting him in the heavy fine in question. The practice of Chinese officers to turn any little authority that may be vested in them to their own advantage by the process of "squeezing" is so notorious that when anything of this kind occurs within the island one cannot help indulging in reflections not altogether complimentary to our native guardians of the peace. The second case is one which we fear is indicative of a crying abuse of native life in this Colony. We believe we are not going beyond the truth, and not expressing ourselves too strongly, when we say that these servant girls, who are found in almost every Chinese family in Hong Kong, are in the majority of cases nothing more or less than slaves, and by no means well-used ones. A short time ago we had a case in which a woman was shown to have strung up her servant-girl and to have branded her, and in this case, if we recollect rightly, the inhuman mistress was let off with a fine that was totally inadequate to meet the requirements of the case. In the case under consideration we are told that the unfortunate girl, a child seven years of age, was suffering from a contused wound on the head, had her eyes blackened from a blow across the nose; her legs black and very much

swollen, in fact almost bursting from distension; and she is also said to have been dirty and hungry when brought to the station. It is quite time that a check was put upon proceedings of this kind, and we are inclined to hail the sentence as a step in the right direction. The community may be congratulated on the fact that the magisterial bench has been strengthened by the appointment of one who, although conversant with the Chinese language and customs, is nevertheless free from all bias in their favour when gross abuses become apparent.

We understand that a testimonial of the value of \$200 has been presented to Dr. Denny, by the merchants of Hong Kong, "As a Slight Recognition of the Service rendered by him to the cause of Truth in the publication of his Short Rejoinder to an article in *Macmillan's Magazine* by Sir Charles Dilke upon English Influence in China."

CANTON.

The *China Mail* correspondent writes:—

A fire of a somewhat serious nature occurred in Canton on the night of the 30th December last. The scene of the conflagration was one of the wealthiest in the Western suburb. The origin of the fire was supposed to be incendiarism, occurring as it did in a shop which had been just vacated as an opium-smoking divan. More than ten houses were consumed, and among them were three well-known eating-houses. No lives were lost, but the families of the respectable Chinese living in the neighbourhood were much alarmed. In the case of one aristocratic house, there happened to be a coffin containing the remains of a deceased relative; and on the alarm being given, those in the house were placed in a most anxious state of mind for the safety of the coffin, which was removed before any other property was looked after.

The flower boats at Kuk Fow, Canton, have again been the cause of a serious disturbance. It may be remembered that some time last year these pleasure-boats were all turned away from this anchorage on the complaint of Dr. Kerr, but since that gentleman's departure the boat-owners have gradually returned to the spot. Some vagabonds in the neighbourhood endeavoured to levy a black-mail on them. This was not complied with, and the rowdies sought a chance to create a riot and to throw the blame on the boat-owners, so that the authorities would drive away the boats and be thus made the tools of vengeance. In the same neighbourhood there has been recently established an eating-house somewhat similar to the Hang-fa-low here, wherein sing-song parties could be given. No better opportunity could have occurred to carry out the wishes of the rowdies, and they accordingly got up, a few days ago, a riot on some pretext or other, smashing up everything in the house, which they made a complete wreck. The prime mover of the rowdy party, a tailor in the same street, then got up a petition, which he headed with his own name, charging the boat-owners and the proprietor of the eating-house with keeping immoral establishments and with being the cause of the disturbance. The petition also charged the Nanihoi magistrate with receiving bribes, and other military officials and yamen runners with being owners of some of these establishments. The Viceroy ordered the provincial judge, in conjunction with other officials, to make a searching inquiry into these allegations; meantime all the flower boats must "wylo" from Kuk Fow. The tailor, Tam Wai Kee, is at present in custody, for it is generally believed that the charge against the Nanihoi magistrate is false.

COCHIN CHINA.

SAIGON.

Dr. Harmand has written a letter to the *Saigon Independent*, in which he says he was greatly surprised to read the paragraph concerning himself which we recently reproduced from that paper, and adds, "Without entering into the numberless errors in this article, I beg you to insert the present letter, and to abstain in future from entertaining the public with facts and action concerning me."

The *Independent* of the 1st January says:—"At the close of the year Saigon may make her account and add to its liquidation of capital the houses of business, large and small, which have closed or disappeared during the year. Two large houses—one of the first rank, and a third, a foreign house, are no longer numbered in Saigon; while as to shops, these close up and nothing is heard of them; and what will soon remain to us of the prosperity which we had from 1868 to 1872, which marked the apogee of the colony! One of the causes of this is the disappearance of sailing vessels from the port, and a second cause is said to be the sale of stores by the employees of the Messageries Maritimes, the vessels of which company are said to be transformed into a regular fair, where one can buy freely from the stewards, linen shirts, hats, boots, umbrellas, perfumery, &c. The above paper says that the company denies the truth of these statements being a loser of some £2,000 per voyage, but still always informed by those in its employ that nothing of the kind takes place. It urges that the matter should be seriously looked into."

JAVA.

BATAVIA.

The *Straits Times* translates from the Batavia newspapers the subjoined items of news:—

On the 20th December the following telegram, dated the 16th, from the military and civil Commander at Atkin, was published at Batavia:—"Rajah of Simpang Olim has fled and has been deposed, and a reward has been offered for his apprehension. Tunku Muda Angkasa has been murdered by hirelings of the Rajah of Simpang Olim. The head men and people of Simpang Olim are well disposed. News from the north coast satisfactory." The murdered Tunku Muda Angkasa was Rajah of Passi, and had been co-operating with the Dutch in the reduction of Simpang Olim. An additional company of troops was, by last accounts, to be despatched to Simpang Olim.

According to official returns the Java coffee crop for last year was recently estimated at 1,286,255 piculs, of which quantity 1,263,359 piculs, had been delivered into the coffee storehouse there up to the end of November last.

On the 23rd Dec., three judicial officers and Mr. Groeneveldt, a Chinese interpreter, were to leave Batavia for Delhi, to inquire into the differences arising there between planters and coolies, and into the complaints mutually made by them.

On the 17th December a Javanese at Batavia, when in a state of delirium from fever, ran an amok, killing one Bantamese coolie and wounding six others, two of whom were not expected to recover. Afterwards he inflicted nine wounds on himself so that his life was despaired of.

The *Java Bode* of the 18th December states that cholera was then prevailing greatly at Anjer, the population of several campons there having suffered much from it.

The Governor-General has ordered four native schools to be established in the Aru Islands.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

SINGAPORE.

The present P. and O. mail brings advices from this port to the 11th January; the P. and O. mail from London Dec. 8 was received on the 11th January. We take the following items of intelligence from the *Straits Times*:—

There has been no attempt at a repetition of the Chinese riots in regard to the establishment of a sub-post-office here, and business has been proceeding as if nothing of the kind had taken place. The determined action of the authorities in dealing with the rioters has given general satisfaction, and the only regret attendant upon the affair is, that more stern measures could not have been adopted towards the leaders and instigators of the mob. One incident, however, which has arisen within the last few days will serve to remind the daring agents of the secret societies that the late *emende* has not been forgotten. The Hokien Chinamen applied in the usual way to the police for permission to hold a monster procession and meeting for the purpose of returning thanks for the goods which the gods have given them during the last three years, but as it is known that some of the leading members of that Society were concerned in the instigation of the riots, permission was not granted to the holding of the public meeting, and the refusal seems to have taken the Chinese by surprise. Secret societies, religious processions, and mass meetings are looked upon, and are treated, as criminal offences in China, and though, naturally, we have no wish to advocate stringent measures for the suppression of what are ordinarily harmless superstitious observances, it is not unwise to hold a firm hand over the Chinese on occasion, and thus let them understand that though perfect freedom may be theirs, if they conduct themselves loyally, it can under circumstances be shorn of some of its luxuries. The lesson which the riot has taught is a simple one; secret societies are capable of causing the most serious mischief in the community, and measures should be taken either to limit their sphere of action or to suppress them altogether.

Another Chinaman has fallen a victim to the riots. This man was shot in the instep, his foot being completely smashed. When conveyed to the hospital, we understand, he persistently refused to have his leg amputated. At last, however, he consented to the operation, but it was then too late, his system having been exhausted from the profuse discharge from the wound. He died five days after the amputation and twenty-six after receiving the wound. This makes the fourth victim to the folly of the Chinese. It will be remembered in reference to the riots that Government having obtained information to the effect that one of the leaders of a secret society, Lim Ah Tye, was beyond doubt concerned in the instigation of the disturbances, had him placed on board the M.M. steamer *Mokong* for conveyance to China, care being taken, the Governor assured the Legislative Council, that he should not be allowed to land at Saigon or Hong Kong. So far satisfaction was given, but we now learn that the Chinaman in question has been arrested in Hong Kong.

It will be remembered that the chiefs Maharajah Lela, Datu Sagor, Pandak Indut, and four others, were found guilty by a

Malay Court of having been concerned in the murder of Mr. Birch and three other persons, and were sentenced to death. The Secretary of State for the Colonies having been consulted on the subject, has decided that the Government should advise the Raja Muda to exercise his prerogative of mercy towards four of the convicts, on the ground that they were used simply as the agents of others in a superior position; and as no advice has been tendered on behalf of the three chiefs named, they will be executed. The four prisoners whose sentences have been commuted will suffer imprisonment for life. The Government still maintains a strict reserve regarding the future of Sultan Abdullah, who also is accused of complicity in the same crime, and it is now rumoured that he will not be put upon his trial, and that a kind of compromise is being effected regarding his position in Perak. The action of Government in refusing information on the subject to the public or their representatives is very reprehensible, and creates a principle which is dangerous and impolitic.

The Legislative Council has been adjourned *sine die*, and its last meeting was signalised by passing through, without previous notice and without much discussion, an extraordinary measure in the shape of amendments to the Courts Ordinance Bill of 1873. For some time past the manner in which the business of our Law Courts has been conducted has been most unsatisfactory, owing, in many instances, to the want of, and the absence of judges, and this last has given the *coup de grace* to any hope which was left of raising the legal Courts from the slough of mistrust into which they had gradually but surely been sinking in the minds of all classes. The measure was condemned by the unofficial members, and it found evidently only an unwilling advocate in the person of the Attorney-General.

The treaty, if it might be so termed, entered into by the Chiefs of the Nine States agreeing to refer any disputes among themselves to the Maharajah of Johore has formed the subject matter of an able letter from the pen of Mr. Read to the Governor, in which a comprehensive review of the history of the past of those States has been entered into. Mr. Read justly condemns the arrangement, which has given general dissatisfaction, and shows clearly the false and anomalous position in which the Maharajah of Johore may be placed in being made an arbitrator without power, and an adviser without being able to command respect.

Inspector Struquell made a raid on a party of gamblers, in a hut near the Outram-road, on the 9th January. About a dozen Chinese were busily engaged in card-playing, with some thirty dollars in cash before them. On the entrance of the police there was a general retreat, but five were captured, with the gambling implements and money. This capture may have the effect of breaking up a gambling confraternity which has been carrying on its little game for some time past. We have no doubt of the activity of the police in their endeavours to put down gambling, but this is the first instance we have heard of for some time past, of their success in capturing offenders red-handed.

The Malacca Land Act which was lately passed through the Legislative Council has given, as we anticipated it would at the time, much dissatisfaction to the landed proprietors of Malacca. It is a radical measure interfering with the prescriptive right of landowners, and its introduction in the statute-book will create endless litigation.

The French ironclad frigate *La Galiniasgouere*, Captain Conte, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Perigot, late Commander-in-Chief of the French Squadron in the Pacific, anchored in the roads on the 6th Jan. from China and Saigon, and saluted Fort Canning. She is on her way home, and proceeds *via* the Suez Canal.

The official statement of the note circulation of the local Banks for the month of December is as follows: Oriental Bank \$178,175; Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China, \$387,275; Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, \$466,650.

The subjoined notification appears in the *Government Gazette*:—The temporary appointments of Mr. Baumgarten at Singapore, and Mr. Logan at Penang, as judges of the Supreme Court, ceased to have effect from the 1st January. As a temporary arrangement Captain Walshe and Mr. D. F. A. Hervey will act as Commissioners of the Court of Requests at Singapore, and Captain Hatchell and Mr. C. W. S. Kynerley at Penang.

Market Reports.

(For dates see first page.)

IMPORTS.

YOKOHAMA.—The advance in exchange had caused holders to be quite ready to accept current offers, and sales of Yarns, Indigo Shirtings, Prints and Velvets had been made at low prices. Some few transactions in Shirtings are reported at weaker rates, but there had been no general improvement in the demand. Turkey Reds were quite neglected. In Woollens, Mousselines had found buyers at reduced prices, and Italian Cloth and Blankets had been fairly saleable at about previous quotations. There had been rather more inquiry for Bar and Nail Rod Iron, but the low offers made by dealers had not led to any important operations.

HONG KONG AND OKAWA.—The Chamber of Commerce Circular says:—The past month has been a period of almost unexampled depression

throughout, and goods have been difficult of sale even at a reduction. Cottons—Grey Shirtings: The dealers are still heavily supplied, and cannot be tempted as yet to add to their stocks even at lower prices. The same remarks may be said to apply to Turkey Red Cambrics, Black Velvets, and most Cotton goods. Black Satens continue saleable at a decline. Worsteds and Woollens: With the exception of Thibets and Italian Cloth, Woollens are likewise neglected. Forced sales of Plain Mousselines are reported at even lower rates than those last quoted. Cloth is quite unsaleable, except at ruinous prices. There has been a limited inquiry for particular assortments of Blankets and Flannels. Iron: The market remains quiet.

CHINKIANG.—Messrs. Spencer and Wolff write, on the 20th December:—Scarcely any business has been done in Piece Goods since the date of our last, the 13th instant. Indeed, the market has been almost at a standstill, no sales of any importance having been reported, and the few sales that have changed hands not sufficing to establish quotations. The future prospects of trade as regard Manchester Goods are dependent entirely upon advices that may be received from Shanghai, for so long as that market remains in its present unsettled state dealers here will be reluctant to operate, fearing a further decline in prices there.

HANKOW.—There had been very little demand for foreign manufactures during the fortnight, and quotations were quite nominal, the only business reported having been the sale of 500 pieces Gray Jeans at Tls. 1.46. Metals—Lead: L.B. quoted Tls. 6.25 to 6.30 per picul but there was very little enquiry. Quicksilver: The quotation of Tls. 57.00 to 58.00 per picul was quite nominal, there being no buyers even at the lower figure.

SHANGHAI.—There had been a good speculative demand for medium and better qualities of Grey Shirtings and notwithstanding the Christmas holidays intervening about 90,000 pieces had changed hands during the week, principally for cash, at the following rates:—8-lbs. good common at Tls. 1.60 to 1.65; favourite medium at Tls. 1.70 to 1.75, and best chops for Tls. 1.80 to 1.85 per piece. More inquiry had also been shown for "respectable" makes of 7 lbs. weights which were saleable from Tls. 1.22 to 1.30 per piece. In Heavy Cloths there was also more inclination among buyers to operate in guaranteed qualities at about Tls. 2.25 to 2.35 per piece. T-Cloths were attracting more attention at the close and there were buyers of every description of Cloth at an advance of fully 5 candareens all round on last quotations, but the ideas of most holders favoured still higher prices, and transactions had been small. Drills were wanted at previous rates, but there were few sellers since the decline in exchange without an adequate advance in currency prices. Fancy Cottons exhibited no change in value with very little business doing in this branch. Camlets values had improved in auction, prices averaging at Tls. 13.09½ per piece for CPH: Spanish Stripes realised at Tls. 0.53½ per yard. Long Ells: Scarlet were quoted from Tls. 6.60 to Tls. 6.89 per piece according to quality and chop. There had been scarcely anything doing in Metals.

HONG KONG.—Messrs. Olyphant and Co.'s Circular says:—Business has been checked during the past fortnight by the usual Christmas holidays, and but little of interest has transpired. Cotton Yarns: Bombay Yarns are a shade weaker, but Nos. 16 to 24 English are unchanged in value; Nos. 28 to 32 and 38 to 42 have not been dealt in. Piece Goods: Settlements have been of a most trifling nature, and the few small sales made are no guide to the state of the market. Previous quotations are generally repeated. Woollens: Other than a sale of 250 pieces Camlets nothing of importance has been done; purchases of most articles could doubtless be made at somewhat easier rates. Metals: Some small parcels of Lead have changed hands upon former terms. Quicksilver has advanced \$2 to 3 per picul. Importers have made further concessions in the price of Yellow Metal to effect sales. Tin is lower. Coals: The arrivals have been 4,740 tons, comprising 3,790 tons of Australian and 950 tons of Formosa. The sales have been 1,100 tons of Australian (New Lambton) at \$9.50 per ton. Soft Australian kinds are still wanted.

CANTON.—A moderate business had been done during the fortnight in most descriptions of produce at prices showing little change from previous values. Lead had suffered a decline, but holders were firm for the small stock held, and the sales effected had been trifling, not over 200 piculs. W.B. was quoted \$8.75 to \$8.85, and inferior brands at \$8.60 to 8.70 per picul; stock 1,200 piculs. Quicksilver was worth \$73 to 74 per picul.

MANILA.—Little or no business had been transacted in the market, owing to the intervention of the Christmas holidays. Values in most cases were unchanged.

PENANG.—The demand generally had continued small. Sales had consequently been limited, and quotations were unchanged.

SINGAPORE.—Business during the fortnight had been very quiet, holders of Cotton Goods were mostly asking higher prices, owing to firmer values telegraphed from home. Dealers were mostly buying very sparingly as is customary before the Chinese holidays, which were approaching; stocks of many of the principal imports were very light.

EXPORTS.

TEA.

YOKOHAMA.—Business had continued on the same moderate scale as previously reported, settlements only reaching 3,000 piculs, comprised almost entirely of low grades. Teas above good medium were difficult to meet with, and quotations for these were quite nominal. The total export to date had been 13,434,462 lbs., against 15,549,190 lbs. for corresponding period last season.

HONG KONG AND OKAWA.—Notwithstanding that the market had been very quiet during the month and settlements of 1,600 piculs only are returned, prices, in the absence of more important transactions, were quoted much as last given. Purchases for the season to date were 50,600 piculs, against 51,500 piculs at the same period last year. Stocks, 5,000 piculs.

SHANGHAI.—Black: During the earlier portion of the fortnight there was rather more disposition to buy, and several parcels of common Oonam were settled at prices ranging from Tls. 10½ to 12; very few transactions had since taken place, as the usual Christmas Holidays had put a stop to business. The unsold stock was rather heavy for the time of the year, but further arrivals were likely to be on a small scale. Settlements:—1,500 chests Oonam at Tls. 10.50 to 12.00, 905 chests Oopack at Tls. 12.50 to 15.25, 503 chests Hobow at Tls. 14.00 to 21.00. Stock 28,780 chests. Green:—There is very little of interest to report regarding this market, the few chops settled during the interval showing no change in rates. Holders were very strong, and were not pressing their teas for sale, being as yet disinclined to grant any concession in prices. Additional receipts from the country would probably not exceed 10,000 half-chests, which would make the total supply for the season about 400,000 half-chests. Settlements:—1,125 half-chests Moyune, fine to finest, at Tls. 30.00 to 32.50; 368 half-chests Moyune, medium to fine, at Tls. 29.00 to 35.00; 350 Fychow, medium at Tls. 24.00; 373 Pingauy at Tls. 18.00 to 34.50. The stock consisted of 78,200 half-chests country tea, 4,078 half-chests Pingauy, and 2,000 half-chests local packed.

FOOCHOW.—Messrs. Westall, Galton, and Co.'s Weekly Letter says:—Notwithstanding the limited number of operators a large business has been transacted on this market for the time of year. Settlements for the week are—Congou 12,338 chests, Souchong 103 chests. Congou: Great activity has been displayed in the common to preferable common descriptions. The declining state of exchange at the commencement of the week has tended slightly to strengthen prices, and an advance of nearly half a tael per picul may be quoted. Souchong: One chop has been taken, reducing the stock to 565 chests. Oolong: No transactions to report. Flowery Pekoe: No transactions to report. Scented Teas: No stock. The export to Great Britain and the Continent of Europe amount to 51,641,452 lbs., against 63,094,100 lbs. To the Colonies 15,730,202 lbs., against 15,099,603 lbs. To America 665,141 lbs., against 974,665 lbs. at the same time last year.

AMOI AND TAMSUI.—Formosa Oolong: Letters report arrivals as having ceased, and season nearly closed, and give the total export to Amoy at 7,864,014 lbs. against 6,362,326 lbs. at same time last year. Further settlements had been reported at Amoy comprising nearly all grades, at the following rates:—Good cargo, \$28 to \$29; superior, \$31 to \$32; fine, \$35 to \$37; finest to choice, \$40 to \$50 per picul. The stock stood at 27,152 half-chests. Amoy Oolong: The season was nearly finished, and only a few hundred packages more were expected from the country.

CANTON.—Messrs. Deacon and Co.'s Report says:—Our market has been quiet, and only moderate transactions have taken place. Congous: A settlement is reported of 700 boxes at Tls. 17 per picul, but beyond this there has been no business done. Scented Teas: Buyers have been favoured by a fall in sterling rates, and purchases have been on rather an increased scale; the business of the fortnight has, however, not been large. Scented Capers have been bought at the decline quoted in our last report; common grades have been inquired for and a few settlements made at Tls. 15 to 16 per picul, the stock however is now very limited; fair teas have found buyers at Tls. 18 to 20 per picul. In fine and finest parcels no business is reported, and the quantity of these offering is very small. Quotations for Pekoes are unaltered; "new-make" kinds have been taken at Tls. 15 to 17, and "long leaf" Tls. 24 per picul. Canton Greens: A few trifling settlements have been made, but particulars are not reported. The following is a summary of the fortnight's business:—Congou, 700 boxes at Tls. 18 per picul; Scented Caper, 10,000 boxes at Tls. 15 to 20 per picul; Scented Orange Pekoe, 2,300 boxes at Tls. 15 to 24 per picul.

SILK.

YOKOHAMA.—News from the European markets having been somewhat better, a good demand sprung up, and a large business had been done, especially for Hanks, which led to a further rise of nearly \$30 on last quotations. The market had, however, been less animated since the departure of the French mail, owing chiefly to the unforeseen fluctuations of exchange. The total settlements for the season had been 18,200 bales, against 9,600 bales for the corresponding period last season. Stock 2,500 bales. Silk-worm Eggs: A few thousand cards had been bought during the interval at from \$0.50 to 0.75; but the stock left in the hands of the Japanese Bank, estimated at about 200,000 cards, had been withdrawn from the market. The total export since the beginning of the season was 1,085,000 cards, against 727,000 at the same date of 1875.

CANTON.—Transactions in Tattlees reel had been very unimportant, purchases to extent of 200 bales were made for the French mail, and there had been no subsequent dealings; prices had ruled very irregularly, and it was impossible to give reliable quotations. Holders were asking from \$170 to \$520 per picul for No. 4 of good quality. In Long-reels no business reported. Re-reels had been in good request, and all grades of Cumchuck and Lucklow had been taken at an advance on previous rates; settlements under contract were put at 730 boxes. Stock estimated at 1,200 bales Tattlees, 100 bales Kowkong, 100 bales Cumchuck and Lucklow, and 200 to 300 bales of inferior descriptions.

SHANGHAI.—The North China Herald report says:—For the French mail of the 22nd Dec. business was rather more general than it has been for the past two months, and purchases were reported of nearly 1,000 bales. Tael prices were very irregular in consequence of the uncertain state of the exchange market, prices paid being for Donkey chop Nos. 3 and 3½, Tls. 580 and 590; Incense chop Nos. 3 and 3½, Tls. 530 and 550; Blue Peacock "Zin-ling" and "Tun-ling," Tls. 550 and 530; Dancing Bear Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Tls. 540, 520, and 500; Pagoda No. 2, Tls. 532½; K.F.S. Beautiful Woman No. 2, Tls. 525; "Saling," Tls. 510; S.S.S. Dollar chop, Tls. 480; C.Y.S. "Gna-ling" and "Kin-ling" Kabing Tayamams, Tls. 495 and 480, and some 150 bales of re-reels were taken at Tls. 530 to 540 for medium cargo. The closing of the Banks during the Christmas holidays has probably had some effect in curtailing business for this steamer. But

about 600 bales have found buyers (including 250 bales of re-reels) making total settlements to date 60,400 bales against 56,000 at the same date last year. Amongst the purchases are—Clouded Dragon Nos. 3, 3½, and 4, at Tls. 560, 545, and 530; Buffalo Nos. 1, 2, and 3, at Tls. 570, 550, and 530; Chunta's Beautiful Woman No. 2 at Tls. 545; market Tattlees at Tls. 490 and 510; and re-reels (the principal portion very common silk) from Tls. 500 to 540 per picul. Market Tattlees are nearly exhausted, and with best chops included, are only 5,000 bales in stock; coarse Silks are in no demand, and a good deal of the yellow silks on the market six weeks ago have been returned inland, and are re-appearing to a small extent in the shape of re-reels. Arrivals are insignificant, and the total unsold stock has decreased to 21,000 bales. From the comparative table of stocks in the London warehouses on the 1st November last the position of Tattlees should be favourable if figures are worth anything, the total stock of this class being 7,000 bales, against 11,000 at the same time in 1875, of which the grades classified Nos. 4 and 5 are only 5,700 bales, against 9,200.

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

At YOKOHAMA.—Jan. 29, Sunbeam (yacht), from a cruise.
At HONGKONG.—From London, Dec. 1, Elgin (str.); 12, Yorkshire (str.); 14, Montgomeryshire (str.).
At SHANGHAI.—From Liverpool, Feb. 9, Stentor (str.).
At HONG KONG.—From London, Feb. 3, Benarty (str.), Galley of Lorne (str.), and Tyburnia; from Cardiff, McNear; from London, Feb. 10, Cyphrenese (str.), Sarah Nicholson; from Liverpool, Patroclus (str.); from Cardiff, A. T. Stalrecht, Belle of Oregon.
At MANILA.—From Cardiff, Dec. 14, Oneta.
At SAIGON.—From St. Nazaire, Dec. 21, Augustin; from Newcastle, 19, Arrogante.
At BATAVIA.—From Rotterdam, Feb. 3, Hampton (str.).
At SINGAPORE.—From Cardiff, Jan. 1, Teekalot; Feb. 6, Hera; from Shields, Jan. 8, Oregon; from Blyth, Feb. 8, Margaret Knight; from Sunderland, 6, Peder Auker; from St. Malo, 8, Louis Eugenia.

DEPARTURES.

From YOKOHAMA.—For England, Feb. 3, Sunbeam (yacht).
From SHANGHAI.—For London, Dec. 24, Borealis; Feb. 3, Glenroy (str.), (via Foochow).
From AMOI.—For New York, Dec. 28, Thyatira, Craig Evan.
From HONG KONG.—For Hamburg, Dec. 30, Feiga; for New York, Boemah.
From MANILA.—For Channel, f.o., Dec. 17, Juno; for New York, 24, Obed Baxter.
From BATAVIA.—For Nieuwe Diep, Jan. 31, Holland (str.).
From SAMARANG.—For Channel, f.o., Dec. 21, Erling Skjalgson; for Holland, 17, Slamet; 19, Christine.
From SINGAPORE.—For London, Jan. 8, Palestine; for New York, 3, Velocity.
From PENANG.—For London, Jan. 6, Edeline.

VESSELS LOADING.

At YOKOHAMA.—For New York, Charles L. Pearson.
At HONGKONG.—For Europe, Josephine.
At AMOI.—For New York, Constance Wilson.
At HONG KONG.—For London, Cuba, Paluan, Rowena; for Hamburg, Fano; for New York, Madame Demorest, Cutwater.
At MANILA.—For London, Delia, Fire Queen; for Channel, f.o., Ziba, Eanama, William Fruing; for Liverpool, Columbia; for New York, Otto, Rebecca; for Boston (U.S.), Mindora, Edward May, C. O. Whitmore; for San Francisco, Harriet N. Carleton.
At SINGAPORE.—For London, Asterope, Hermann, Laurens Coster, Larnax, R. C. Rickmers, Rifleman; for Marseilles, Ricca Genova; for New York, Androklos, August Friedrich; for Philadelphia, Marie Helene.
At PENANG.—For Falmouth, f.o., Webfoot.

FREIGHTS AND CHARTERS.

From YOKOHAMA.—To London by steamer, silk, \$4.50 per bale; tea, £3 17s. 6d. per ton of 40 cubic feet. To New York, sailing vessel, £2 per ton.
From HANKOW.—To London, by steamer, £3 12s. 6d. per ton of 40 cubic feet.
From AMOI.—To New York, sailing vessel, £2 7s. 6d. per ton.
From HONG KONG.—To London, by steamer, £3 3s. per ton of 40 cubic feet; sailing vessel, £3 2s. 6d. per ton of 50 cubic feet. To New York, £2 per ton of 40 cubic feet.
From MANILA.—To London, by sailing vessel, sugar, £3 5s. per ton; to Channel, f.o., and New York, under Hong Kong charter; to San Francisco, sugar, \$11 per ton.
From SINGAPORE.—To London, by sailing vessel, dea-tweight £2 15s. to £2 17s. 6d.; pepper, £3 5s.; to Marseilles, gambier, £2 17s. 6d.; sago flour, £3 per ton; to New York, gambier, £2 12s. 6d.; coffee, £3; pepper and measurement goods, £3 5s.

PASSED STRAITS OF SUNDA.

Date.	Ship.	From	To
Dec. 20	Parada	Hong Kong	Hamburg
"	Chalnette	Hong Kong	London
" 24	Oberon	Manila	Boston
" 25	Dartmouth	Manila	London
"	May Queen	Hong Kong	London
" 26	George Shotton	Hong Kong	London
Jan. 27	Bato	Rotterdam	Batavia

THE FAMINE IN THE NORTH OF CHINA.

(NORTH CHINA HERALD.)

The memorial from the Governor of Shantung, in the *Peking Gazette* of the 24th November, gives a faint idea of the terrible scarcity which is prevailing in that province. Our Chefoo correspondent has called attention from time to time during the summer to the failure of the crops through the prevailing drought, and to the inevitable distress that would follow as the winter approached. Letters from the interior of the province have since painted in harrowing colours the sufferings of the famine-stricken inhabitants; and now the case is being pressed upon our notice in a practical form by the arrival of thousands of the destitute poor into our own neighbourhood. Driven by imminent starvation, they are said to be crossing the Yangtze daily in a continuous stream, and flocking to all the great cities in this province, begging for the food which has failed them at home. At Soochow many thousands are being provided with shelter and rice gruel sufficient to keep body and soul from parting; and every great city has its share of immigrants. At Shanghai they are arriving by hundreds, and the same slender accommodation is provided for them which the efforts of the officials and the charity of individuals have extended elsewhere. Men, women, and children, babies even a few days old, are swarming over the country, begging their way from place to place, and pursuing their journey southward, impelled onward as it were by the constant pressure of new arrivals. Hitherto they have shown themselves peaceably disposed, as it is the nature of Chinamen to be unless driven wild by the cravings of hunger; and if sufficient food to keep life in them is furnished, we have no fear of trouble ensuing. What danger there is lies rather in the insufficient organisation of the Government than in any lack of good-will on the part of the officials or the people. The latter are charitably disposed within moderate limits, and are sufficiently well-to-do in this province to contribute their mite without inconvenience, while the richer merchants can afford to give great sums without feeling the drain. The officials have the double motive of vindicating their character and of maintaining the peace of their districts. Famine has been a fruitful source of rebellion in China, and there is nothing the Government or its subordinates dread so much as popular disturbance. They will make every effort to allay the suffering of the new comers, for the sake of public order as well as of charity; and we give them all credit for having the will to do the best they know how to do. There is no such organisation in China as enables the burden of relief to be distributed over the whole country, as is done in the case of scarcity in India. Each province, each district, each town has to look after itself, and contribute to the support of those who throw themselves upon it for help. The people of Kiangsu appear to have selected Kiangsu as the principal object of their migration, and the cities and towns of Kiangsu will have to bear the burden of their support. If they press onwards into Chekeang, the districts of Chekeang which they invade will be called on to contribute to their relief. There is no such organisation as enabled the Indian Government to lay the whole Empire under contribution for the support of famine-stricken Orissa. Neither is the wise principle of affording relief in the shape of payment for work here recognised. But what the officials know how to do we believe they are very willing to do; and the people are well disposed to contribute within bounds to the relief of their suffering countrymen.

COMMERCIAL POSTSCRIPT.

It is notified that the Bonds of the Chinese Loan which have been drawn for redemption, and the Coupons due on the 19th inst., will be paid on and after that date at the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Lombard-street.

CARGOES OF NEW SEASON'S TEA AFLOAT.

Date.	Ship.	From.	Estimated Tons.
Oct. 11	Ruth	Canton	300,000
Nov. 9	Hallow's	Shanghai	945,000
— 25	Endymion	Shanghai	860,000
— 28	Black Prince	Shanghai	800,000
Dec. 14	Galatea, str.	Shanghai	1,000,000
— 17	Stella	Shanghai	500,000
— 20	Demetrius, str.	Shanghai	2,000,000
— 25	Borealis	Shanghai	1,200,000
Jan. 9	Glenfield, str.	Shanghai	1,500,000
Total			8,105,000
Same time last year			12,200,000

TELEGRAMS FROM THE FAR EAST.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

SHANGHAI, FEB. 8.—Manchester Goods: Market closed owing to holidays. Silk, flat: Total export to date 50,000 bales.

HONG KONG MARKET REPORT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

HONG KONG, FEB. 9.—Business restricted by approaching holidays.

SHIPPING POSTSCRIPT.

ARRIVALS NOT IN THE TABLES.—Feb. 7, off Scilly, from Rangoon, Francisca; 8, at Falmouth, from Batavia, for Amsterdam, President Van Ryckevorsel; from Rangoon, Fortuna; 7, off Dungeness, from Tjilatjap, for Amsterdam, Thorbecke; 8, at New York, from Hong Kong, Ocean Chief; 9, at Falmouth, from Swatow, Ingeborg; at Queenstown, from Rangoon, Flora; from Samarang, John N. Gamewell; 11, at London, from Manila, Celestial Queen; from Foochow, Galatea (str.); from Hong Kong, British Crown; 12, from Shanghai, Deucalion (str.); 10, at Queenstown, from Samarang, Victor; from Batavia, Dr. Mezger; 9, at Falmouth, from Singapore, for Hamburg, Questembert; 6, at San Francisco, from Hong Kong, Alex. McNeil; 11, at Liverpool, from Akyab, Clausina, Deslennou.

DEPARTURES.—Feb. 7, from Cardiff, for Singapore, Gem; 8, from Liverpool, Cotherstone; 6, from Bordeaux, for Batavia, Clipper Ecuador; 8, from Sunderland, for Singapore, Ennpress; 9, from Cardiff, Quarta; 12, from London, for Shanghai, Glenartney (str.); 7, from Amsterdam, for Padang, Alemaria Victorix; 8, for Sourabaya, Prof. v. d. Boon Mesch.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.—Feb. 11, Imbros, from Cardiff, for Singapore; Agamemnon, from Liverpool, for Shanghai.

SPOKEN.—Maiden Queen, Sunderland to Padang, Dec. 24, 6 S., 29 W.; Hannah Law, Cardiff to Hong Kong, Jan. 4, 17.19 S., 32.16 W.; Jan Piterzoon Koen, Amsterdam to Samarang, Dec. 24, 4.10 N., 23.40 W.; Joseph Brown, Sunderland to Singapore, Dec. 21, 28 S., 21 W.; Iris, Hamburg to Hong Kong, Jan. 2, 22.48 S., 28.50 W.; Highlander, Boston to Hong Kong, Jan. 1, 23 S., 27 W.

CASUALTY.—Hong Kong, February 10, the Sarah Nicholson, from London, arrived here with loss of foretopmast and main and mizen topgallant masts.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Rotterdam, Feb. 6, the John H. Kimball, ashore at Terschelling, will be stripped, and the materials taken back to Nieuwe Diep. Some of the seams have started. An attempt will be made to lighten the vessel by means of casks.—Liverpool, Feb. 9, the Clock, from Cardiff for Anjer, which was ashore at Tacumshin, has been towed off, and arrived here.—Malta, passed Feb. 7, Elgin (str.), from Manila, for Rotterdam.

SHANGHAI SHARES AND STOCKS.

	Shares.	Paid up.	Latest Qn.	Last Divd.
Shanghai Dock Company	500	500	210	20 p.s.
Shanghai Gas Company	100	100	112	11 p.c.
Shanghai S.N. Company	100	100	66	7 p.c.
S. Tug and Lighter Company	850	850	600	12 p.c.
French Gas Company	50	50	70	7 p.c.
Hong K. Fire Insurance Co.	\$1,000	\$200	\$500	74.19 p.s.
North China Insurance Co.	Tls. 2,000	Tls. 600	875	
Union S.N. Company	100	100	30	
Yangtze Ins. Association	500	500	Tls. 620	15 p.c.
Union Insurance Society	\$2,500	\$500	\$725	
China Traders Co. (Limited)	5,000	1,500	1,580	2.74
China and Japan Marine Ins. Co.	Tls. 500	Tls. 10	5	
China Fire Insurance Co.	500	100	165	74.12 p.c.
Hongkew Wharf Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 94	5 p.c.

EXCHANGES, &c.

[For dates see next page.]

ON LONDON.

At	Bank Bills.	Credits.	Documentary.
Yokohama, 6 m.s.	4s. 2½d. to 4s. 3½d.	4s. 3d.	4s. 3½d.
Shanghai	5s. 7½d. to 5s. 7½d.	5s. 8½d.	5s. 8½d.
Canton			
Hong Kong	4s. 3d.	4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d.
Amoy			
Singapore	4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d.
Peking	4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d.
Manila	4s. 4½d.	4s. 5d.	4s. 5½d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

	At Shanghai.	At Hong Kong.
Bills on India	Rs. 3.9	Rs. 231
Bills on Hong Kong	26 to 26½ p.s.	
Bar silver	11-11 1/2 5	8 prem. (nominal)
Mexican dollars	T. 4.7 5 3	7 prem. (nominal)

SHARES AT HONG KONG.

Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, 25 per cent. prem.
 Hong Kong Gas Company, 75 per share.
 Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock, 45 per cent. discount.
 China Traders' Insurance Company, \$1,700 per share.
 Hotel Sharea, \$50 per share.
 Hong Kong and Amoy Steamboat Company, 10 per cent. dis.
 Hong Kong Fire Insurance Company, \$261 per share.
 Union Insurance Society, \$610 per share.
 China Fire Insurance Company, \$168 per share.
 Chinese Insurance Company, \$101 per share ex interest.
 Shanghai Steam Navigation Company, Tls. 70 per share.
 Chinese Imperial Loan, 109 (ex ts. 14d).

* The latest telegrams report the rate for six months' bank bills at Singapore 4s. 5½d., at Hong Kong 4s. 3½d., at Shanghai 4s. 2½d.

THE MAILS.

PRESENT INWARD MAIL.—BRINDISI, FEB. 7.—The P. and O. Company's steamer Pera arrived at 6 and the mail left at 10 p.m. for London.

HEAVY PORTION OF PRESENT INWARD MAIL.—PORT SAID, FEB. 6.—

The P. and O. Company's steamer Khedive, with the India, China, and Australia heavy mail, left Port Said for Southampton at noon.

NEXT INWARD MAIL.—SUZ, FEB. 5.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Simli, with the inward French mails from China and Japan, left here to-day for Port Said and Marseilles, at which latter port she may be expected on the 13th inst.

INWARD MAIL DUE MARCH 5.—COLOMBO, FEB. 8.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Mekong, with the inward French mails from China and Japan, left here to-day for Aden.

OUTWARD MAIL OF DEC. 22.—SHANGHAI, JAN. 5.—The P. and O. Company's steamer Zambesi, with the London mails of the 22nd of December, has arrived here.

OUTWARD MAIL OF DEC. 29.—HONG KONG, FEB. 10.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Tigre, which left Marseilles on Dec. 31, has arrived here.

OUTWARD MAIL OF JAN. 12.—COLOMBO, FEB. 6.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Anadyr, from Marseilles, Jan. 14, left here to-day for Singapore.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

HAMPSHIRE.—On the 29th Jan., at Cliff House, Shanklin, I.W., the wife of Fred. K. Hampshire, M.B., civil surgeon, Straits Settlements, of a son.

KERR.—On the 3th Feb., at Willesden, the wife of W. Paterson Kerr, of a son.

MILKHAM.—On the 31st Jan., at 4, Walour-terrace, Manchester, Mrs. J. Z. Milkham, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

SPARKS.—ELLIOT.—On the 6th Feb., at Cliff House, Bethesda Chapel, Clifton, Robert Esp. nry, only son of R. Sparks, M.B., of Belfast, to Catherine Rose, eldest daughter of the late Christopher Elliot, M.D., of Colombo.

WONDERHOUSE.—DYANE.—On the 3rd Feb., at the Cathedral, Hong Kong, Henry Ernest Wonderhouse, Civil Service, fifth son of the late Colonel Philip Wonderhouse, formerly of the 15th Hussars, of Writtlehall, Wiltshire, to Eleanor, daughter of the Rev. John Battinist Deane, Rector of St. Helen with St. Martin Outwich, London.

THE CHINESE EMBASSY.

(THE TIMES.)

The Court Circular contains an announcement of dramatic interest. The "Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Emperor of China" was introduced to the Queen by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and presented his credentials in due form. Every formality exacted by the etiquette of diplomacy was precisely observed, and the Chinese Envoys have at least no reason to complain of being slighted. Let us hope that they will not forget the obligations of reciprocity, and that the Foreign-office will no longer be troubled with the ingenious efforts of the Tsung-li-Yamen at Peking to treat the representatives of the European Powers as the humble petitioners of contemptible foreign States. The events of the past generation have compelled the Chinese Government, and possibly to some extent the people of China, to recognise the outer barbarians as persons not subject either in fact or in theory to the "Dragon Throne." But all the craft of the mandarins, and it is well-nigh inexhaustible in expedients, has been exercised to prevent the masses of the Chinese from arriving at a knowledge of the truth, or from suspecting that the Government at Peking has ever condescended to treat on a footing of equality with the "foreign devils." These efforts have hitherto been wonderfully successful. The repeated concessions of the Peking Government under pressure of defeat or menaces have been carefully disguised, and presented to the Chinese people as free motions of Imperial grace. The missions of Pin and Mr. Burlingame, which were used to throw dust in the eyes of the Western Powers, were exhibited in China as evidences of the vast chasm in dignity between the Lord of the Dragon Throne and the insignificant princelings of the barbarian world. It is certain that few among the many millions of Chinese have been allowed to know that twice within the last seven years the Imperial Government has been compelled to make formal reparation for murderous outrages. The embassy which was sent to France a few years ago, bearing an apology for the Tientsin massacres, was understood by the vast majority of Chinamen, so far as they heard of it or comprehended it at all, to be a favour conferred for certain inscrutable, but doubtless excellent, reasons of policy upon the barbarian West. Chinese subtlety of intelligence was flattered by the thought that the foreigners had been again and again deceived, and had welcomed inferior personages as high official representatives of the Imperial Power. Even now, when the "Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Emperor of China" is a statesman of recognised rank, it is to be noted that the pretence of an offensive distinction is kept up. A Chinese newspaper, lately started as the organ of Li-Hung-Chang himself, the all-powerful Viceroy of Chihli, speaks habitually, we are told, of Sir Thomas Wade and his colleagues of the diplomatic body at Peking as "Foreign Messengers," while it gives the high-sounding equivalent of "Ambassadors" to Pin and Chung Horn, as well as to his Excellency Kwoh, who was introduced on Wednesday to the Royal presence, and who yesterday witnessed the opening of Parliament, in company with Mr. Pierpont and Count Munster.

The grounds of our confidence that ultimately our relations with China will improve are simple enough. We know that the Chinese are a shrewd people, and that, entrenched as they are in prejudices and superstitions, their isolation has already been broken down at many points by the influx of knowledge and the contagion of commerce. As soon as the people of China come to perceive the real aims of European civilisation they will rid themselves of their fears, and will open their arms to the trade and the capital of the West. The lower classes have even now little antipathy to intercourse with Christian communities. In the Pacific States of the American Union, in our Australian Colonies, in the South American Republics, and in the Straits Settlements the Chinese coolies are flowing in with a steady stream of immigration, are taking money, developing special forms of commerce, and bringing back to the "Flowery Land" a certain fragment of Western ideas. But hitherto the official class have been untouched by this current of innovating and enterprising restlessness, and so vast is the

extent of the Celestial Empire that the jealous conservatism of the mandarins is always fortified by ponderous masses of uncompromising and unaltered bigotry. If China is ever to be opened to the ambitions and the ideas and the commercial intercourse of the West, the official class must be persuaded that the change—an immense change, undoubtedly—is expedient or inevitable. The mission of which his Excellency Kwoh is the head has at least the merit of bringing the official power in China into direct contact with Europe. The negotiations which Sir Thomas Wade has conducted with great ability at Peking serve the same purpose. However the ingenuity of the mandarins may disguise the course of events, acts and arguments leave their impression upon the most unwilling mind; nor is utter secrecy possible even in the shadow of the Dragon Throne. The Chinese must come to know that their rulers are carrying on diplomatic intercourse with us on terms of at least nominal equality, and they will soon ask why other intercourse should be restricted. The officials themselves cannot fail to perceive that when troubles arise—as they are likely often to do when an old and a new civilisation are brought into contact—it is better to deal with acquaintances than with strangers, or with those whose friendly advances had been repulsed with disdain.

We are not sure how far the Chinese Envoy and his suite have received lasting impressions from the courtly ceremonial of Wednesday, or the pageantry and the political bustle of Thursday. Courts are in essentials the same all the world over, and they offer to an Oriental observer few, if any, of the distinctive characteristics of Western society. The opening of Parliament by the Queen in person, which the Chinese Embassy were privileged to see on the following day, ought to have had greater interest for the statesman of a great Eastern Autocracy. A Government in which the sovereign, though enthroned in the affections of her subjects, exercises hardly any appreciable share of direct power; in which courtiers and their arts are utterly impotent; in which the aristocracy is strong because it knows when to bow to the popular will; in which the official classes are the servants, not the masters, of the people;—such a Government would be a curious study for a keen-witted Oriental. In the last century the critics of European institutions were accustomed to put their satire and their invective, their praise and their advice, into the mouth of some imaginary sage from the East, a Persian or a Brahmin, or, most favoured of all, a Chinese. But Montesquieu, Voltaire, Goldsmith, and the rest knew nothing of the Persians, Indians, and Chinese of their fictitious criticisms. It would be unfair to expect our Chinese visitors to survey English institutions and social life in England from the point of view of a "Citizen of the World." But we may hope that his Excellency Kwoh was able to see something more yesterday than the Queen's escort, the Royal State carriage, and the Peers and Peeresses in the brilliant Chamber at Westminster. The strength, the elasticity, the abounding vitality of the English character and of English institutions cannot be quickly measured even by experienced political observers, but only a very dull man could fail to perceive the evidence of them in the aggregate of yesterday's mingled incidents. It is not unreasonable to expect that our Chinese visitors may have been able to draw some conclusions from what they saw, and if they can impart their impressions to their countrymen the cause of peace and goodwill in the countries of the Far East will doubtless be advanced a little way. In our relations with an Empire like China we must be content with a slow progress, and we shall be well satisfied if it be only steady. The Embassy of Kwoh-Sung-tao marks an advance beyond the point touched by Mr. Burlingame, as that, with all its defects and deceptions, carried us further than the farcical mission of Pin.

TEA CULTIVATION IN INDIA.

At a meeting of the Indian Section of the Society of Arts on the 2nd inst., a paper was read by Mr. A. Burrell on the subject of "Indian Tea Cultivation, its Origin, Progress, and Prospects." Dr. Forbes Watson, who was announced to take the chair, was unfortunately absent through indisposition, his place being occupied by Colonel Yule, who briefly introduced Mr. Burrell to the meeting. That gentleman then proceeded to read his paper, which proved to be a fairly exhaustive review of the subject represented by its title. It was urged that the soil and climate of India were in every way admirably adapted for the culture of the tea plant, the produce sent out by the Indian tea-growers being in no way inferior, and in many instances much superior to the teas of China, to which, however, the preference was often unduly given by English consumers who were perhaps occasionally apt to be led by something akin to prejudice in such matters. The history of the propagation and growth of both the indigenous Indian plant and of the variety imported from China, from the earliest period at which public attention had been drawn to the matter until the present time, was carefully followed, circumstantial reference being made to the principal promoters of the Indian tea-growing movement through the various stages of its development. The efforts of Sir Joseph Banks were particularly alluded to as having exerted a most important influence in the matter, and attention was also directed to the papers read and discussions held from time to time in the Society of Arts itself on Indian tea-culture. To convey an idea of the steadily increasing consumption of Indian tea in our own country, it was mentioned that the imports of this article during 1876 had amounted to 27,000,000 lb., or 19 per cent. of the total consumption of the year; while it was anticipated that the imports of the present year would amount to at least 32,000,000 lb. or 25 per cent. of the probable total consumption of the year in the United Kingdom. On the conclusion of the paper a discussion arose, in which Sir Douglas Forsyth, Mr. Maitland, Mr. Clark, Mr. Ward, and others took part, the general expression of opinion being in favour of the superiority of Indian tea over that of the Chinese production.

EGYPT AND THE SLAVE TRADE.—We hear that the Egyptian Government is about to despatch a squadron to cruise in the Red Sea, and to visit the ports suspected of being concerned in the slave trade, and to inquire into the matter with the view of devising means for its suppression.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS, CORRESPONDENTS, &c.

No notice can be taken of Anonymous Correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

A Register is kept of the Addresses of all Persons connected with the FAR EAST, and reference can be made to the same by personal application at the Office or by letter.

Any Information required by Subscribers in reference to Commercial or general matters in CHINA, JAPAN, SINGAPORE, and other parts of the FAR EAST will be supplied on application at the Office, where files may be seen of the Journal published in those countries.

The "LONDON AND CHINA EXPRESS" is published Weekly on the day of departure of the mails, and contains a summary of English, Continental, and American News, Commercial and Shipping Reports, &c. Subscription, £33s. per annum.

The "LONDON AND CHINA TELEGRAPH" is published Weekly on the arrival of the English and French mails. Subscription, £22s. per annum.

JAMES WEST, PUBLISHER,
GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.

The London & China Telegraph.

LONDON: MONDAY, FEB. 12, 1877.

THE CHINESE EMBASSY.

On Wednesday a scene which was novel in the streets of London presented itself to those who were in the thoroughfares leading from Portland-place to Buckingham Palace. The Chinese Envoys proceeded from their residence in the above street to their audience with Her MAJESTY. The carriage in which they were conducted was characteristic of their nationality, being mounted with a great deal of yellow—the Chinese national colour—and having behind, instead of footmen, two Chinese military officers, who, with their plumes waving in the air, made up a very imposing sight, and the whole having a most picturesque effect. Inside the carriage were the two Envoys, KUO-TAH-JEN and LIU-TAH-JEN, Dr. MACARTNEY, English Secretary of Legation, and TEH-MING, the Chinese interpreter. On arriving at Buckingham Palace the carriage drove in under the archway to the grand entrance, where the party were received by Sir FRANCIS SEYMOUR, Master of the Ceremonies, and other high officers of Her MAJESTY'S Household. A quarter-past three was the hour appointed for the audience, and the Envoys having arrived shortly before that time, they were ushered into the grand saloon, where they waited for some time, when they were conducted into the presence of Her MAJESTY, to whom they were introduced by the Earl of DERBY, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The Imperial letter, rolled up in the form of a scroll, was then handed to the "Chef de Mission," who, holding it up before him with both hands, proceeded to read in Chinese the apology which he was deputed to make with regard to the MARGARY difficulty. When he had concluded, Dr. MACARTNEY read the English translation, and Her MAJESTY gave a reply, which was interpreted into Chinese by Mr. HEWLETT, of the Consular Service. The Envoys must have been much impressed with the reception at the Palace as well as by the demonstration made by the crowd as they proceeded along the streets to their destination. Although they themselves looked imposing in their magnificently embroidered Court dresses, their costumes paled before the blaze of gold presented to their view in the uniforms of the officials of Her MAJESTY'S household, and the other high personages who were present. On their way to the Palace they were loudly cheered by the by-standers, who raised their hats as they passed, and manifested the best feeling.

The following is the official account of the reception as given in the *Court Circular* :—

Kuo-Tah-Jen, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Emperor of China, was conducted to Her Majesty's presence by Lieutenant-General Sir Francis Seymour, K.C.B., Master of the Ceremonies, and introduced by the Earl of Derby to Her Majesty, and presented his credentials.

Liu-Tah-Jen was presented at the same time.

Sir Thomas Wade, K.C.B., Her Majesty's Minister in China, was present, and afterwards presented to the Queen Dr. Macartney (English Secretary to the Chinese Mission), Mr. Teh-Ming (Chinese interpreter), Mr. Hewlett (Assistant Chinese Secretary to the English Envoy), and Mr. Hillier (Consular assistant).

On Thursday a second scene of a similar character was presented to the public, when the Envoys proceeded to Westminster to witness the ceremony of the opening of Parliament by the QUEEN. The sight must have done a great deal to revolutionise their ideas of foreigners and foreign institutions. On this occasion, as on the former, the greatest good feeling was manifested; so much so that

some of the subordinate members of the Embassy who were not admitted to the House were taken into the balconies of houses of noblemen and others, where they were treated with the utmost courtesy. We are glad to notice that the Envoys have abstained from any parade and spectacle, and have not followed the example of the SHAH in putting themselves forward to be inspected as a kind of curious show. They have simply come forward and taken up their position as the diplomatic agents for China at the Court of St. James's with the same quietness as is observed by the Ambassadors from any other countries; and we think this absence of needless display does much credit to their tact and discretion.

CHINESE LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

FROM time to time the alarm is sounded in various forms that Chinese labourers will be employed in this country; and there can be little doubt that the possibility of this contingency arising is one which is at the present time worthy of consideration. The opening of the Suez Canal, which has shortened the direct voyage to China considerably more than half, and has been the means of bringing many Celestials to these shores as servants and sailors on board steamers, has had the effect of familiarising the minds of many Chinamen with this country; while the repeated strikes among the working classes here has made capitalists more and more inclined to look abroad for new hands. These two influences combined are likely to bring about their natural result, of the supply finding its way to the place of demand; and it is by no means impossible that Chinese may be employed in our mines and factories. Indeed, it is reported that at the present moment the proprietors of one of the largest collieries in the United Kingdom intend to make the experiment of Chinese labour; but this statement must be taken with some hesitation, as the threat has been so frequently made before, and has not been followed by action. At the same time, it would be well for the working classes here, to take warning in time of the competition which they may bring down upon themselves by persistent strikes and constant disagreements with their employers. If Chinese labour were once introduced here it would rapidly become so firmly rooted that it would be impossible to displace it—and the British working man has every interest in endeavouring by acting reasonably with his employers to prevent this point being reached. One further point is naturally suggested by the increase of the Chinese labourers in different foreign countries, namely, that the time will come when this fact will form a sufficient basis on which to demand reciprocity of privileges in China. If Chinese are allowed the full privileges of citizenship in other countries, it is unreasonable that the subjects and citizens of all foreign nations should continue to be excluded from competing in China in the same class of work which the natives of that country do abroad.

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION IN CHINA.

A VIEW which was put forward in a pamphlet written over the signature of "Justum," (to which we recently called attention), demands more than a passing notice. It forms one among the many instances which have to be regretted, of the injury which is likely to be done to the Chinese cause by the over-zeal of persons imperfectly informed as to the merits of the questions upon which they undertake to enlighten the public. In the pamphlet in question an apparent miscarriage of justice through a technical difficulty is made the ground for making it appear that justice is badly administered in China, in cases where Chinese have a claim against British subjects—a view which is entirely contrary to the fact, and which does very great injustice to the judges of the Supreme Court and all who have been charged with the task of putting the law into effect in that country. Extraterritoriality is an absolute necessity in countries where law is so defectively administered as in China; and in which it would be simply an impossibility to place the subjects of foreign nations at the mercy of the native tribunals—where, to say nothing of bribery, torture is still resorted to as an appropriate means of eliciting evidence. It is extremely unfortunate at a time when the Chinese are willing to come forward to a great extent and to endeavour to establish relations upon a more

friendly footing than they have existed on hitherto, for over-zealous advocates to rush in and, by raising difficulties which it is impossible to surmount, make it appear hopeless even to deal with them upon a fair and equitable basis. The most unfortunate element connected with this is, that these advocates generally go very much further than the Chinese themselves; who are sensible enough to recognise the necessity of some difficulties in dealing with foreign nations. At all events, in the matter of extraterritoriality, it is known by those who are likely to be good authorities on the subject, that the Chinese officials, though they would of course prefer that the jurisdiction of their countrymen in China should extend, as in other countries, over aliens as well as natives resident in it, are aware that as matters at present stand this is simply an impossibility; and such being the case, it is worse than useless for foreign advocates of Chinese rights to raise the question. The Supreme Court for China and Japan, established under special order in Council with a view to carrying out the extraterritorial administration of justice in those countries, has afforded substantial justice to Chinese suitors in all cases which have been brought before it; and this we believe the Chinese are themselves perfectly ready to acknowledge. Even if in some few cases justice has failed, it is not a matter for very great surprise when the "glorious uncertainty of the law" anywhere, and more necessarily under the exceptional circumstances existing in China, is taken into account; and it is therefore extremely unjust as well as extremely unwise to take any one instance where there has been an apparent failure, and to speak of the exception as if it were the rule. We believe that more harm has been done to our relations with China by the intemperate zeal of her advocates than by any other cause; and in such cases as the present those who have the true interests of China at heart must strongly feel the force of the proverb, "Save me from my friends." A discussion of the extraterritorial question would only be the opening up of a very sore point, which it is impossible to enter upon without going counter to the national dignity of the Chinese; and such a discussion is entirely unnecessary, seeing that the Chinese Government have expressed their acquiescence in the existing state of affairs by specially recognising the Supreme Court.

DUPLICATE TELEGRAPH LINES.

THE cable by which the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company are about to duplicate the first section of their line by laying one of about 870 nautical miles between Rangoon and Penang has been shipped on board the steamers *Kangaroo* and *Hibernia*, belonging to the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company. The effect of this extension will be to establish upon a completely reliable footing the telegraphic communication between India and the Far East, the interruptions in which have caused so much inconvenience to the mercantile communities both here and abroad—one interruption having lasted six months and necessitated the conveyance of telegrams part of the way by steamers. It is to be hoped that as opportunity offers this system will be further extended, as experience has demonstrated beyond question that single lines cannot be relied upon, and are a source of considerable loss, not only to the merchants dependent upon their working, but also to the companies themselves. The Eastern Telegraph Company, the duplication of whose lines is now being rapidly completed, lost as much as £30,000 by the above-mentioned interruption, and something like £10,000 by breakdowns on their own lines during the visit of the Prince of WALES to India; all of which loss would have been avoided had the lines been duplicated. So fully have the shareholders of the Eastern Company recognised the desirability of following this policy that they have come forward willingly to subscribe the requisite capital on preference shares. It is to be hoped that ere long similar steps may be taken by the Great Northern Company to duplicate the line between Hong Kong and Shanghai, the interruptions upon which have been so frequent and troublesome. We make no doubt that the time is not far distant when all telegraph cables will be duplicated, and constant communication with all parts of the world be thus secured.

WE are informed that Dr. J. DUDGEON, of the Medical Missionary Staff, will take his departure for China about the middle of March. Since he has been home he has done much service in calling attention to matters connected with that country. On the 2nd inst. he read an elaborate paper before the Medical-Chirurgical Society of Glasgow, in the Faculty Hall, on the "Diseases of China, their causes and conditions, contrasted with those of Europe, with remarks on the Induced and Preventible Diseases of Modern European life." The contrast was of course remarkably favourable to the Chinese, their general sobriety, temperate habits, and carefulness in diet, clothing, exposure, &c., even in spite of the utter want of anything like sanitary science, giving them great immunity from a list of diseases to which we are here subject. The absence of shock and of acute inflammatory diseases of the internal organs was pointed out. Special reference was also made to the absence of various diseases, such as heat apoplexy, aneurism, heart disease, and of the mild character of most Chinese complaints. Last month a paper was read by the same gentleman at the Glasgow Southern Medical Society, similar to the one read at the Social Science Congress at Liverpool, on Opium, in relation to health, disease, alcohol and population. Dr. DUDGEON is to deliver a lecture this evening on the "Early History of China."

The Times of the 8th inst. contains a very good account of Colonel GORDON's exploits in China, in connection with the suppression of the Taiping Rebellion. The matter, it is needless to say, is far from new, but the story of GORDON's campaign is told in a truthful and straightforward manner. Speaking of the treacherous decapitation of the four Wangs by LI-HUNG-CHANG, after the taking of Soochow, notwithstanding a distinct stipulation, before the capture of the city with GORDON, and in consequence with them, that their lives should be spared, the writer says:—

This act of treachery disgusted Gordon so much that he resolved on quitting the Chinese service. * * * The Chinese Government apparently saw no guilt in the act, and rewarded the Governor with the highest honours, while they offered Gordon 10,000 taels (£3,000) for his services. The money he indignantly refused, but accepted the dignity of *Kungpaon*, a rank of Chinese nobility the same as that given to Li-Hung-chang.

It is perhaps rather difficult to see how acceptance of the money would have been less dignified than the acceptance of a similar honour to that conferred upon LI-HUNG-CHANG for such an act.

Literature.

Waifs and Strays from the Far East. By FREDERIC H. BALFOUR. London: Trübner and Co.—We are agreeably surprised with the above work. From its unpretending title and too modest preface we expected to find it too much in the character of those works which might be properly designated "China made easy," consisting of a mass of curious, amusing, and funny information designed to give people at home some idea—however superficial—of the great Celestial Empire. Mr. Balfour states that his little work is intended for English readers whose knowledge of Chinese matters bears an inverse ratio to the interest they take in the subject, and that no claim is made by him to originality or profound research. The work, however, bears throughout the stamp of thoughtfulness, its tone is temperate without being weak, its style easy and amusing without being superficial or flippant. To home readers desirous of obtaining a good idea of China matters we can confidently recommend the present work; and to China readers it will also be of value as putting many things already known to them in a new and interesting light.

The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society for October 1876. London: Trübner and Co., Ludgate-hill. The above volume though not containing any matter specially referring to China and the Far East, has some valuable papers on Asiatic subjects which, as germane to them, will be perused by many of our readers with interest. The annual report reproduces some remarks made at the general meeting by Sir Rutherford Alcock, who observed among other things that if the Society could draw to this country some of the *literati* who gave so much trouble in China, and were our sworn foes, and get them imbued with European ideas, customs and literature, it would be one of the best possible means of removing a great obstacle in the way of a better understanding with that country.

The Friend of China (Organ of the Anglo-Oriental Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade) for February contains

several very interesting articles. It notes that Mr. Mark Stewart is again to call attention to China affairs in the House, during the present Session. Among other matter, it gives a review of the last China Blue-book, containing the Margary correspondence; translations of recent Anti-Opium Tracts, and an article, by an old Canton resident, upon Opium as affecting the wealthy and intellectual classes in China.

Macmillan's Magazine for February has a valuable article on British and foreign ships of war, by G. Shaw Lefevre, M.P.; a note on the Oxford University Bill by G. Edwin Smith, and other articles of interest. It contains also a very beautiful little poem, "Hæmony," by Miss Ellice Hopkins, the sentiment in which is truthful and natural, and the diction at once simple and effective.

We have been requested to state that Sir Charles Dilke is not, as was asserted, the author of the pamphlet with reference to the Woosung Railway signed "Justum," which was reviewed in a recent issue.

The Geographical Review for the current month contains, among other interesting matter, a further notice of Abbé David's valuable travels in China.

Captain Hamber has been elected editor of the *Morning Advertiser* by the committee of the Incorporated Society of Licensed Victuallers.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

At the Society of Antiquaries on January 18, F. Ouyry, Esq., President, in the chair, the Society of Past Overseers of the Parishes of St Margaret and St. John the Evangelist, Westminster, exhibited the very curious parish tobacco-box, which was given to the Society by one of its members in the year 1713. The box was at that time a common oval tobacco-box, which the owner and donor had purchased, it is said, at Horn Fair, for the sum of fourpence. A full account of the vicissitudes, or, as we should rather say, the aggrandisements, through which it passed in the hands of successive overseers, who vied with each other in adding case over case, and a silver plate upon silver plate, up to its present gorgeous state, will be found partly in Hone's "Year Book," p. 1570, and partly in the handsome descriptive quarto volume published by subscription in 1824, in illustration of the box and its succession. Among other cases of which this was the prolific parent was a case in Chancery, for an attempt on the part of one of the overseers to retain it in his custody gave rise to a lawsuit at the close of the last century, which lasted three years, and cost over £300. The issue of that suit is duly and exultingly commemorated on the box. It must not be forgotten that one of the silver plates inserted in the box itself was designed and engraved by Hogarth.

At the British Archaeological Association on Jan. 17, Mr. T. Morgan in the chair, Mr. Roach Smith reported that a large portion of the walls of Britford Church, Wilts, were those of a Roman building. Mr. Way exhibited a series of relics from Pompeii. Mr. W. Money sent a collection of small wig-curling implements found at Newbury, near the head-quarters of Charles the First during the civil wars. Mr. L. Brock exhibited a large series of paving-tiles, of mediæval date, from the site of the demolished church of St. Antholin, City; and Captain Joseph two more from the same place, one bearing the date 1591, on a white ground. Mr. W. de Grey Birch exhibited and described two interesting historical rolls on parchment belonging to Mr. Halsey, M.P., of Great Gaddesden. One, which was fully twenty-five feet long, was written in the time of Edward the Third; but its records, which commenced with Adam, and which were principally in similar terms to those of Geoffrey of Monmouth, Wace, and other old chroniclers, ended with a record of the children of Henry the Third.

At the Asiatic Society on Jan. 15, Sir E. Colebrooke, Bart., M.P., President in the chair, a paper was read, contributed by Mr. H. H. Howorth, "On the Northern Frontagers of China, the Kin or Golden Tatars," in which the writer gave a very full and interesting account of the gradual rise and progress of this tribe, the Yuchis, and of the circumstances which led to their successful conquest and occupation of the northern part of China (during the eleventh century A.D.), which was then under the feeble rule of the Khitan or Liao dynasty. Sketches of the lives of many of the Yuchi chiefs were given, with a more enlarged biography of Aguta, who raised his people from being a petty kingdom in Manchuria to an important position among the northern Asiatic Powers. Aguta died A.D. 1123, at the age of fifty-five years, leaving, as the result of his prowess, an empire, the capital of which was, shortly afterwards, the present Peking.

At the Statistical Society on Jan. 30, J. Heywood, Esq., President, in the chair, the paper read was "On the Recent Economic Progress of New Zealand," by Mr. A. Hamilton. A discussion followed, in which Sir J. Vogel, Dr. Guy, Sir J. Ferguson, Bart., &c., took part. One of the interesting points of discussion was as to the value of an adult male immigrant. Mr. Hamilton, in his paper, states that "The value of an immigrant in the community has been estimated in the United States at

£166 13s. 4d." Sir J. Vogel stated that it had been estimated by a German authority that immigrants—such as those encouraged to go to New Zealand—were worth £200 each to the colony; but he himself thought they were worth more, and doubted the possibility of arriving at anything like a satisfactory estimate.

At the Numismatic Society on Jan. 18, J. Evans, Esq., President, in the chair. Mr. Evans exhibited an aureus of the Emperor Trajan, with, on the reverse, DIVVS PATER TRAIANVS and a portrait of the father of the Emperor. Mr. Pearson exhibited a third brass coin of Constantius II.; *obv.*, his bust to the left in paludamentum; *rev.*, CONSTANTINVS CESAR SENE—Mr. B. V. Hend read a paper, by M. J. P. Six, of Amsterdam, "On the Series of Silver Staters having on the *obv.* the Great King as a kneeling Archer, and on the *rev.* a Persian Satrap on Horseback, galloping to the Right." These M. Six attributed to the district of Caria. The writer was further of opinion that the majority of them were issued in the reigns of the dynasts Pixodarus and Othontopates.

At the Society of Antiquaries on Jan. 25, J. Evans, Esq., V.P., in the chair, Mr. D. Mocatta exhibited and presented some drawings of the wall-decorations of Pompeii, which had been executed by himself and Mr. S. Birchall in 1829. What made them particularly valuable was the circumstance that Mr. Mocatta and his companion stole a march upon the *custodi* during their *sistà*, by clambering over the walls and copying the decorations at the most lately discovered and excavated part of that interesting city.

Legal.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.—COMMON PLEAS DIVISION.

MARINE INSURANCE.—THE ADMIRAL PROTET.—KALTENBACK V. MACKENZIE. This was an action arising out of a policy of insurance tried on the 1st inst., before Lord Chief Justice Coleridge and a special jury. The counsel for the plaintiff, the owner of the insured ship, were Sir H. James, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Watkin Williams, Q.C., and Mr. J. C. Mathew; for the defendant, the underwriter, was Mr. Butt, Q.C., Mr. A. Cohen, Q.C., and Mr. Hollams.

From the opening statement of Sir H. James, it appeared that the case for the plaintiff was in effect as follows:—The action was on a policy of insurance on a ship named the Admiral Protet, and the principal question for the jury was whether the ship had received such injuries as amounted to a constructive total loss. The vessel was built in 1864, and traded between Europe and Singapore. When she became the property of the plaintiff's firm she was worth £1,500. The plaintiff was the Paris member of his firm, which was a French firm, with branches at Singapore and other places. Towards the end of 1870 the policy now sued upon was effected. At that time the vessel was in the Eastern Seas, and, owing to the stoppage of business in Paris by reason of the Franco-German war, the policy was effected in London. It was a time policy, dating from Oct. 4, 1870, to April 4, 1871, and carried with it the legal incident of a time policy effected under such circumstances—viz., that there was no warranty of seaworthiness. On Dec. 17 the vessel left Hong Kong for Saigon, one of the French Eastern possessions. A charter-party was effected between the captain of the vessel and a firm of merchants to carry a cargo of rice to Hong Kong. On Jan. 22, in going down the river near Saigon, the ship struck on a bank called St. Britt's Shoal, and remained there for four hours. The damage sustained then by the vessel was, according to the case of the plaintiff, irretrievable, but with great difficulty she was got off the bank and taken down to a point called Cape St. James, not far from Saigon. The vessel, having been conveyed to Saigon, it became, said the learned counsel for the plaintiff, the duty of the plaintiff to do what, under the same circumstances, a prudent uninsured owner would have done. The course taken was this:—At the request of the member of the plaintiff's firm resident at Saigon, Mr. Caswell, the British Consul, and Lloyd's agent, nominated two surveyors—Mr. Waterson and Captain Bailey. There were great difficulties in the way of making repairs to a vessel at Saigon. The only dock was a Government floating dock, and any vessel while being repaired in that dock was liable to be turned out to make way for a Government vessel. No skilled labour was to be had at Saigon, and importing it from Singapore, a distance of 600 miles, would have added greatly to the expense. The state of the vessel made it impossible to have her taken to Singapore for repairs. Three surveys were held, and the final recommendation of the surveyors was that the ship should be sold, as the cost of repairing her would, in their opinion, have exceeded the value of the vessel. Granting that it would have been possible to repair her as a coasting vessel, the case of the plaintiff was that he was entitled to have her repaired as a thorough sea-going vessel. The surveyors having given it as their opinion that the vessel would cost more to repair than her value when repaired, the plaintiff's firm at Saigon decided to have her sold. On the 28th of February the vessel was sold for \$1,600 to a Chinese shiphandler, named Jan Say Ho. This Chinese purchaser put some copper and canvas over the leaks in the ship, and obtained a captain and Chinese crew, who, for high pay, were willing to dodge the weather and take the vessel along the coast to Singapore. It took four times the usual time of the voyage before the vessel reached Singapore. At Singapore a Chinaman, named Ah Ching, bought her for \$2,500. He repaired her, and she has since been engaged in a coasting trade in those seas. The main question for the jury on these facts was whether the shipowners were justified in selling the vessel and treating the injuries she had sustained as a total loss.

With regard to the defence, it was, as far as it was disclosed during the progress of the plaintiff's case, twofold, resting on law and on the

merits. The defence on the law of the case was no notice of abandonment given to the underwriters, and no sufficient excuse for such want of notice. The defence on the merits was that the state of the vessel and other circumstances did not justify the plaintiff's firm in the course they adopted, but, as it turned out, the case went off on the point of law. The counsel for the plaintiff contended that if the jury found that the sale of the ship was necessary, and one which acting as prudent uninsured owners would act, the plaintiff was justified in directing, no notice of abandonment was necessary.

After hearing counsel on this point the Lord Chief Justice said that, in his opinion, whatever verdict the jury might give upon the evidence respecting the sale of the ship, the want of notice of abandonment was fatal. Some discussion then arose between his Lordship and the counsel on both sides respecting the form in which judgment should be entered. In the result, judgment was entered for the defendant on the question of constructive total loss, so that the parties might carry the point direct to the Court of Appeal.

THE DEPRECIATION OF SILVER.

Under the auspices of the East India Association, an organisation established in London for the promotion of the public interests of India, a meeting of gentlemen interested in the trade and government of the British possessions in the East was held on the 7th inst. at the Society's rooms, Great George-street, Westminster. The subject for the consideration of the conference was the depreciation of silver. In introducing this topic Colonel A. B. Rathbone gave an elaborate and exhaustive résumé of the circumstances which had contributed to the recent fall in the value of silver, tracing it mainly to the course of trade and the heavy drawings of the India Council, rather than to any causes likely to permanently affect the comparative value of the metal. One thing, he thought, was quite clear, that it was not owing to any real excess of silver that the recent depreciation was due, nor, if the production of silver be largely increased, was there any good reason to fear, for the result of the immense discoveries of gold had been to greatly stimulate labour and enterprise of every kind, and wherever silver is the standard of value a similar effect would probably follow. There seemed no reason to believe that any probable supply of silver would so greatly outstrip the supply of gold as to materially disturb their relative values, although as mining progressed both metals would doubtless be subjected to a certain diminution of purchasing power. Colonel Rathbone concluded a long address by urging the expediency of introducing a gold currency in India in conjunction with the present silver currency, as in the Emperor Akbar's time. The new gold currency would be largely used in payments to the Indian Treasuries, as well as among the people generally, and would so enable the Secretary of State to draw bills on India, payable in gold instead of in silver, or to order consignments of gold to meet the home requirements if necessary. After some general discussion upon the various points raised in the opening address the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Colonel Rathbone.

GERMANY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

HAMBURG, FEB. 6.

With regard to the quarrel which recently occurred at Smyrna (Asia Minor) between some of the crew of the French man-of-war *Chateau Renard* and the German gunboat *Meteor*, correct and detailed accounts have now been received. It appears that some of the French crew had been on board of the French despatch boat *Bouvet*, at the time when this vessel was captured by the *Meteor*, in 1870, at the port of Havana, and in consequence the French had observed a very hostile attitude towards the German crew. On Sunday, Jan. 14, both from the *Meteor* and from the German ironclad *Friedrich Carl*, twelve men were permitted to go ashore. In the evening about thirty of the French sailors, armed with sticks, &c., penetrated into a dancing-room where the Germans were present, and at once attacked them. A lively battle ensued, as the Germans, although far inferior in numbers, gallantly defended themselves, and even succeeded in ejecting their assailants. But the affair was not allowed to end without bloodshed. The gunner's mate, Rosenstein, a very promising and well-educated young man, was stabbed by a Frenchman in the temple, and fell dead. The French sailor who committed the murder was detected, and his punishment no doubt will follow in due course.

By order of the naval authorities, a squadron, consisting of the ironclad frigates *Kaiser*, *Deutschland*, and *Preussen*, with the despatch boat *Falke*, is to assemble on May 7 for an exercising cruise. About the same time the *Niebo* sailing frigate, training ship for midshipmen (cadets), the steam corvette *Melusa*, the *Rover*, and *Mosquito*, sailing brigs, all three as training ships for boys, will be put in commission. The steam corvette *Arnois*, and the despatch boat, *Preussischer Adler*, will hoist the ensign on the 15th of March. The gunboats *Drache* and *Dolphin* will be sent out on an exploring and surveying expedition, and the yacht *Grille*, as well as the two torpedo-vessels, *Zieten* and *Ulan*, will also be brought into actual service. The steam corvettes *Leipzig* and *Freya* will leave on the 1st October for Eastern Asia, the steam corvette *Ariadne*, for the Pacific Ocean, the gunboat *Allatros*, for Eastern Asia, and the *Hertha*, steam corvette, for the West Indies, in case of the *Gazelle* corvette being forced to stay in the Mediterranean. Several ironclads are under construction, and some of them will be finished during the coming summer.

Christine Nilsson, the famous prima donna, whom your London readers have heard so often during the season, has made two appearances at Hamburg. The first time she performed Margaret, and the second time Valentina, in the "*Huguenots*." The theatre was crowded on both evenings, and at the second performance the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin was present; such applause as was heard on these occasions was never heard before. The director of the theatre, Mr. Pallim, had raised the price of admission to the first places from

m.6 to m.15, and for other places in proportion. Madame Nilsson received a total sum of about m.15,000.

The devastation caused by the fearful gale of Jan. 30 has proved far more serious than was at first anticipated. The western part of Hanover, including the towns of Emden, Leer, and others, has especially suffered very much. In the vicinity of the latter place a breach of the dyke took place, and the waters of the Dollart with fearful fury dashed into the adjacent lands, sweeping away houses with all their contents, and making one enormous lake of what was before a well cultivated and flourishing agricultural district. Many lives have been lost, and hundreds of families, hitherto comparatively well-to-do, will have to be supported by public charity for a long time to come.

The board of the Anglo-Deutsche Bank in Hamburg announces for the past year a net profit of m.598,807, while on the other hand the losses of those industrial establishments in which the Bank has had to participate are so considerable that this sum is fully absorbed. The report the directors propose a reduction of the paid up capital to the amount of 25 per cent., as well as a purchase of 2,500 shares for amortisation. A number of shareholders will propose the winding-up of the establishment, and the matter will be decided at the annual meeting, summoned for the 26th of this month.

The cattle plague has attained fearful dimensions, and whole districts have been surrounded by a military cordon in order to prevent its further spread. It has been found that the infectious character of this disease is so subtle that even the lightest air is sufficient to transport the plague from one stable to the other, without any actual communication being made. The authorities are most active in their endeavours to localise the epidemic, but it is feared that their efforts will be fruitless, as the plague springs up here and there without the slightest indications being given how it was brought there.

The steeple of our famous church of St. Nicholas, designed, as your readers will remember, by an English architect, Mr. Scott, has now been furnished with two large bells, which were cast at Dresden by Mr. Grosse. The largest of these two bells has a weight of 127½ cwt., the second weighs 64½ cwt. The Emperor presented one of the guns captured in 1870-71, to be made use of in casting the first mentioned bell, which has been named the *Concordia*.

The authorities have published statistics concerning the emigration from Hamburg to transatlantic ports. The total number of persons who left our town, in steam and sailing vessels, amounted in the year 1876 to 28,733; 1875, 31,810; 1874, 43,443; 1873, 69,176; 1872, 74,400. The interesting fact shown by these figures is the continuous decrease of emigration since the year 1872.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

Continued flatness has been the prevailing characteristic of our Produce Markets during the past week, and transactions of any importance have only been effected in a very few articles. The Money Market has remained very well supplied.

RICE has been in steady demand, and sales have reached an average extent.

TEA is quiet. The following first-hand parcels have changed owners: 1137/8 boxes Congou, 164/8 boxes Souchong.

COTTON has been neglected, and no transactions of importance have transpired.

SPICES.—Mace is quoted m.5 to 5.50; Nutmegs m.4.60 to 6.20 per kilo. Pepper is flat: Singapore quality m.41 to 42, Penang m.37 to 38 per 50 kilo.

SHIPPING.

Since the gale of the 30th ult. the weather in general has been favourable to shipping, the air being clear, and only few fogs prevailing. Still we cannot boast of a very satisfactory trade, both arrivals and departures being few in number, and a good many vessels are in port, anxious to get employment. Of arrivals from East India and China not a single one is to be registered; and of departures I have only to report the *Peri Luerks*, for Penang. Freight rates are still low, as outward cargo is wanting, and most vessels are obliged to leave in ballast. In the number of vessels on the berth for the Far East no alteration has taken place.

HOLLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, FEB. 6.

The members of the Second Chamber met yesterday for the despatch of business. It is most probable that the Session will be a very exciting one; as not only will the Lower-class Instruction Bill be brought forward, but the Minister has also laid before the members a Reform Bill, by which the number of representatives is fixed at eighty-four. Mr. Kuyper has made his reappearance in Parliament, after an absence of about two years, during which he has resided in Italy and Switzerland to restore his health. As the leader of the anti-Revolutionary party he was complimented on his reappearance with all the honours due to his talents. It has been much remarked that the four principal members of the Liberal party have been elected presidents of the sections, viz., Messrs. De Vries, De Roo, Kappene, and Van de Putte. Nevertheless, I think that it is hardly too much to say that there is for the moment no effective antagonism of Conservatives and Liberals, though a sort of climacteric has set in, by which Governments are made and unmade. A tolerable unanimity prevails amongst the Liberals, at least as far as concerns past events; but another question is now brought into the Parliamentary arena, and it seems that this is likely to cause a new division in the Liberal ranks. Some of the party—strange to say—protest, because, not the King, but the Parliamentary majority governs. They demonstrate that this principle is by no means in accordance with the fundamental prescriptions of our Constitution. Now this law says—the King appoints his Ministers according to his wish, but they and not he is answerable. These few words show how to decide.

From almost every part of the country most distressing news is published about the damage caused by the recent storm and flood. Many dykes have been broken, and whole tracts of country are inundated,

while the number of shipwrecks along our coasts has been enormous. The loss of property is tremendous, whilst at the same time many lives have been sacrificed. The water in this century has only twice reached such a high point on the scale. A great part of Rotterdam and other towns on the banks of the Maese have been inundated, and general distress prevails throughout the country. Happily no damage was done to the works of the new waterway from here to the North Sea, and I am glad to state the fact that last Sunday the first mail steamer arrived from Batavia, before this town, along the new canal with a draught of water of fifty-two decimetres. This steamer was the Stad Amsterdam, belonging to the Royal Steamship Company. I need not add that this is a most important fact for the future of this town.

Amongst the other Bills which are laid before the members is one to reorganise the system of instruction pursued at the Military Academy at Breda, which greatly requires reform; another is to grant to the Dutch Colonies the right to introduce a gold standard of coinage, together with the existing silver one, the gold, of course, to consist of ten-florin pieces; a third is to enable the Government to replace our copper coins by those of bronze. Last, but not least, rumours are in circulation that the first step will be taken to make dry land of a part of the Zuyderzee.

The Society for the Welfare of the Javanese has been dissolved. This measure has become necessary because the principal aim of the institution has been reached, and there are not sufficient members to continue the society on a new basis; but a fund will be collected to establish schools, &c. A Commission has been appointed for this purpose, and large contributions have already been subscribed.

The enrolments for the East India army at Hinderwyk have not been extensive during the last few weeks. A large number of foreigners have presented themselves, but they were for a very great part provided with false papers. Instead of 200, only 150 soldiers have been forwarded to reinforce the army by the steamer Celebes.

The King of the Belgians appointed some months ago an International Commission to promote the abolition of the slave-trade in Africa. I hear that Prince Frederick of the Netherlands has been elected president of this commission, and that great efforts will be made in order to secure the success of its objects.

The February number of the leading periodical, *de Gids*, contains another article by Mr. W. A. Van Rees, in which the author protests against the manner in which Mr. Franssen Van de Putte endeavoured to defend his policy and that of General Van Swieten as regards Atchin.

A large number of civil engineers was appointed some days ago to take part in the construction of the harbour works in the vicinity of Batavia.

According to the *Revue Militaire* the medical service of the army has been reorganised, so that there is more chance of promotion.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

Rather a lull has prevailed since my last report in the markets for Colonial Produce. The transactions have been almost entirely limited to direct wants. The Money Market remains well provided.

COFFEE.—The business has been a very healthy one, but at the same time small in extent. Prices are much lower, viz. from 4 to 5 cents for good ordinary. These low quotations, however, have induced speculative buying. To-day the February sale of the Trading Company will be advertised; when this has taken place, a revival in the trade is expected.

TEA dull; the nominal quotations of China Congou is 75 to 80c. ditto Java, 65 to 70c.

RAW SUGAR.—The market has been very fluctuating, but closed dull. The refiners are not inclined to operate, it being very difficult to sell their refined sugar. Holders of raw decline to sell at the current quotation, which is f. 3½ under the highest price of late.

RICE.—Uncolled meets with a good demand, but the transactions have been anything but considerable. The stock is rather small. Japan sells slowly at well maintained prices.

SPICES firm but quiet. Pepper has been offered in large quantities. The statistics are very favourable for these articles.

JAVA TOBACCO.—The business is promising. About 9,000 bales were sold both by public sale and tender, and several parcels have realised high prices. Of Manila were brought into the market 205 bales 4A Cuyayon, ex Aurora; only 20 bales were sold. The stock includes 2,676 bales Java, 78 bales Sumatra, 3,000 bales East India, and 205 bales Manila.

COTTON dull; holders are pressing to sell.

JAVA VANILLA.—The Netherlands India Trading Bank sold 900 kilos. from f. 15½ to f. 6, according to quality; and a second lot of 115 kilos. obtained f. 15½ to f. 11½.

JAVA INDIGO.—The trade is by no means animated. About 100 chests have changed hands.

DIVI-DIVI has met with a good demand, but the stock is nearly exhausted.

BANCA TIN.—The Trading Company sold in public auction 19,760 slabs at an average price of f. 43½. Since this sale Banca has been sold at f. 43½, and Billiton at f. 43.

HIDES.—The lot of 14,198 East India Reindeer and 6,320 Buffalo are sold at high prices.

BANKS AND COMPANIES CONNECTED WITH THE FAR EAST.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, 122, Leadenhall-street, and 25, Cockspur-street, Pall-mall.

Messageries Maritimes (Head Office Paris), 97, Cannon-street, and 51, Pall Mall.

Netherlands India Steam Navigation Company, 13, Austinfriars.

Hong Kong and China Gas Company, Gresham House, J. C. Walduck, secretary.

Singapore Gas Company, 8, St. Mary Axe, Robert King, Secretary.

Singapore New Harbour Dock Company, Paterson and Simons, agents, 21, St. Swithin's-lane.

Singapore Johore Steam Saw Mills, Paterson and Simons, agents, 21, St. Swithin's-lane.

Amoy Dock Company, John Pook and Co., agents, Lime-street-square.

Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock, Morrison and Co., agents, 4, Fenchurch-street.

North China Insurance Company, 25, Cornhill, J. S. Mackintosh, manager.

Canton Insurance Company, Matheson and Co., agents, 3, Lombard-street.

Union Insurance Company of Canton, M. P. Jukes, manager, 82 Broad-street.

China Traders Insurance Company, Limited, 3, St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill, W. Schmidt, Manager.

Ceylon Company, Palmerston-buildings, Old Broad-street, R. A. Cameron, secretary.

Borneo Company, 22, Fenchurch-street, William Martin, manager.

Tanjong Pagar Dock Company (Limited) of Singapore, Macgarratt Tidman, and Co., agents, 34, Leadenhall-street.

German Steamship Company, Hamburg, Robertson and Co., agents, 5, Newman's-court, Cornhill.

Hong Kong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company (Limited), John Batt and Co., Agents, 39, Old Broad-street,

BANKS.

Agra Bank, 28, Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, J. Thomson, chairman.

Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, Hatton-court, Threadneedle-street, J. H. Gwyther, manager.

Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China, Old Broad-street, D. T. Robertson, general manager.

Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris, 144, Leadenhall-street.

Deutsche Bank of Berlin, 50, Old Broad-street, G. Pietsch, manager.

Bank of Rotterdam, Union Bank of London, agents, Princes-street.

Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, D. McLean, manager, 31, Lombard-street.

National Bank of India, R. O. Sawers, chief manager, 80, King William-street.

Oriental Bank Corporation, Threadneedle-street, P. Campbell, chief manager.

* Companies omitted in the above list will be included if the particulars are forwarded

BANK AND MISCELLANEOUS SHARES.

Shares.		Paid.	Closing Prices.
JOINT-STOCK BANKS.			
£10	Agra...	All	10 to 10½
25	Bank of Egypt...	All	55 to 57
20	Chartered of India, Aust., and China...	All	19½ to 20½
25	Chartered Merc. of India and China...	All	29 to 30
20	City...	10	13 to 14
100	Colonial...	20	57 to 58
\$1000.	Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris...	All	52 to 53
£250	Hong Kong and Shanghai...	All	32 to 33
60	Imperial...	15	17½ to 18½
50	London and County...	20	63 to 65
50	London Joint-Stock...	15	47 to 49
100	London and Westminster...	20	62 to 63
25	Mercantile...	All	45 to 46
50	Union of London...	All	40½ to 41½
TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.			
10	Eastern Extension Australia and China...	All	7½ to 7½
10	Eastern Telegraph...	All	7 to 7½
10	Great Northern...	All	7½ to 7½
25	Indo-European...	All	18½ to 19½
10	Mediterranean Extension...	All	3 to 3½
13	Telegraph Construction Company...	All	87 to 88
20	India-rub., Gutta-perc., & Teleg. Works...	All	24 to 25
8	Reuter's...	All	11 to 11½
INSURANCE COMPANIES.			
100	Alliance Marine...	25	18 to 20
20	British and Foreign Marine...	5	8 to 9 pm.
50	Commercial Union...	5	9 to 11 pm.
20	Globe Marine...	5	4 to 4½
50	Home and Colonial Marine...	5	
10	Imperial Marine...	5	
20	London and Provincial Marine...	5	8 to 11 pm.
10	Mercantile Marine...	5	4 to 11 dia.
50	North British and Mercantile...	5	48 to 48½
25	Ocean Marine...	5	3½ to 3½ pm.
20	Thames and Mersey...	5	4½ to 5 pm.
20	Thetis Marine...	10	
50	Union Marine, Liverpool...	5	
50	Universal Marine...	5	5 to 6 pm.
TEA COMPANIES.			
50	Assam...	20	7½ to 7½
20	British Indian...	All	6 to 6½
20	Burceling...	All	16 to 17
10	Eastern Assam...	All	4½ to 5½
20	Jorhaut, Limited...	All	50 to 55
20	Do.	15	
100	Lehong...	All	11 to 11½
10	Upper Assam...	All	5½ to 6
MISCELLANEOUS COMPANIES.			
20	Ceylon...	10	11 to 10 dia.
20	Do.	5	
20	Do.	5	9 to 7 dia.
50	Colonial...	All	18 to 11
5	Credit Foncier of England...	7½	6 to 6½
10	General Credit and Discount...	All	16½ to 17½
10	Hong Kong Gas...	All	2½ to 2½ dia.
10	International Finance...	5	9½ to 10
25	N. and D. Discount...	11	62½ fr.
\$1000.	Messageries Maritimes of France...	All	11 to 11½
250	P. and O. Steam...	All	8 to 6 dia.
50	Do. Do. 1867...	10	63 to 61
100	Royal Mail Steam...	50	67½ fr.
602½.	Suez Canal...	All	
200	Amoor River Navigation Six per Cent...	All	
250	Japan Loan, 9 per cent...	All	107 to 109
250	Do. 7 per cent...	All	105 to 106

Monetary and Commercial.

In the Produce Markets business generally has been dull, there being a marked absence of speculative inquiry. Tea continues quiet, and prices of all kinds, except finest Greens, show a slight decline. Silk exhibits a tendency towards improvement. Coffee and Sugar have also improved. China Galls are lower. Hemp, Pepper, and Spices, are very dull. No business has been done in Cutch or Gambier. Other articles are without alteration.

The total quantity of tea delivered from the bonded warehouses in London for the week ended the 3rd inst. was 3,471,627 lbs., which, compared with 3,536,791 lbs. of the preceding week, shows a falling-off about 1½ per cent. Of the above total, 2,266,312 lbs. was for home consumption, 704,752 lbs. was removed coastwise, 278,440 lbs. was sent coastwise for exportation, 219,535 lbs. was exported, and 2,583 lbs. was for ships' stores. The duty received during the same period amounted to £36,838, which, on comparison with £60,236 for the previous week, exhibits a decline of something like 5½ per cent. The following were the quantities of the other principal dutiable articles withdrawn from the London bonded warehouses for home consumption during the week ended the 3rd inst.:—Coffee, 456,396 lbs.; cocoa, 121,247 lbs.; tobacco, 378,808 lbs.; cigars, 22,966 lbs.; wine, 151,226 gallons; brandy, 34,159 gallons; and rum, 34,920 gallons.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the Tiphook Tea Company (Limited), to be held on the 15th instant, an interim dividend of 7 per cent. on account of 1876 will be declared.

Bar Silver has been placed at 57d. per oz., standard, the market being very quiet. The market is cleared of Mexican Dollars, and the quotation is therefore nominal at 57½d. per oz.

The amount of bullion per P. and O. steamer *Nepaul*, from Southampton, on the 8th inst., was:—In Gold, to Galle, £1,530; in Silver, to Penang, £91,650; to Hong Kong, £3,400; total in silver £95,050.

The Great Northern Telegraph Company's traffic receipts for the month of January were this year £316,565, last year £275,252.

Tenders were received on the 7th inst. at the Bank of England for £175,000 bills on India, but bills to the extent of £39,381 only were allotted—viz., £37,381 on Calcutta, and £2,000 on Madras. Tenders at 1s. 10d. per rupee for bills and 1s. 10½d. for telegraphic transfers will receive in full, no allotment being made below that figure. The minimum rates accepted are the same as last week.

The directors of Hooper's Telegraph Works (Limited) have issued a circular in which they state that owing to the pressing nature of various heavy claims upon the company, which, on account of the continued stagnation of business, they are unable to meet, decisive steps towards winding up the company have in their opinion become unavoidable. The directors therefore call a meeting of the shareholders for the 16th inst. to consider the question of voluntary liquidation under the supervision of the High Court of Justice. It is proposed to bring forward some scheme for the reconstruction of the company.

At a meeting of the Direct United States Cable Company (Limited) the result of the ballot on the question of altering the articles of association so as to allow of an arrangement with the Anglo-American Company for joint working or amalgamation was decided in favour of the amendment, or, in other words, to decline any arrangement, and continue as an independent company.

The directors of the Credit Company (Limited), hitherto known as the Credit Foncier of England, have issued their report and balance-sheet for the half-year ended the 31st of December last. It may be remembered that the capital of the Company was divided, when the name was changed, into income-bearing assets entitled A, and those on which no return is now made entitled B. After allowing for rebate and expenses, the net profit on the A shares was £26,109. From this a dividend of one shilling per share, or at the rate of £6 13s. 4d. per annum, is recommended, which absorbs £15,000, to a reserve fund £7,000 is placed, and the balance carried forward. On the B shares no dividend is paid. During the half-year debentures of the issues of 1871 and 1873 to the amount of £67,695, including bonus, have been paid off. On the other hand, debentures of the issue of 1875 to the amount of £19,200 have been placed. The net reduction of debenture capital has thus been £48,495.

The directors of the York Union Banking Company report a net profit for the past half-year of £28,605, exclusive of £2,857 of interest on the guarantee fund. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. was paid in August last, and it is now proposed to pay a further 10 per cent., with a bonus of 2 per cent., which will make 17 per cent. for the year. This leaves £555 to be carried, along with the above-mentioned interest, to the guarantee fund which will then stand at £69,582.

The directors of Lloyd's Banking Company (Limited) report for the past year a profit of £94,288, including the balance brought down, and after deducting rebate and all expenses. Out of this a dividend, at the rate of 20 per cent., was paid last July, and it is now proposed to make a similar distribution. Altogether this

dividend absorbs £80,000, and £10,000 to be added to reserve, raising it to £220,000, leaving £4,288 to be carried to the new account.

The directors of the Home and Colonial Marine Insurance Company (Limited) state in their annual report, just issued, that the underwriting account for 1874 has been finally closed at a loss of £15,364, exclusive of charges; while the amount to the credit of the underwriting account of 1875 is £29,053, also exclusive of charges. The net premiums for 1876 were £101,471, covering a risk of £13,779,826, of which 85 per cent. had run off by the end of the year, the amount paid on account of the claims under this account being £55,549.

The Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company notify that, subject to the audit of the accounts, the directors propose paying a dividend of 15 per cent. (£1 16s. per share), in addition to the ad interim dividend of 5 per cent. already paid, making 20 per cent. for the year. For 1875 the dividend was 15 per cent.

At the meeting of the Clydesdale Bank, held in Glasgow, it was stated that the profits had been £140,000, and the amount brought forward from last year £8,000. A dividend was declared of 14 per cent., free of income-tax, and a balance carried forward of £6,000. The capital is £1,000,000, the reserve £500,000, the deposits £6,500,000.

The Bradford Commercial Joint-Stock Bank will pay a dividend of 18 per cent., or £4 10s. per share, for the year 1876.

The report of the Australian Agricultural Company states that the funds in London at this date enable the directors to recommend the appropriation of £40,000 to the payment of an interim dividend of £2 per share, free of income tax.

ARTICLES OF IMPORT.

TEA.

Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson's Circular says:—The market has been in a most unsatisfactory state; in fact, for many days there has been an utter absence of demand, and sales have been impossible at any fair rates. At public auction prices have been very irregular, and lower for all common to fair grades. The last day or two there has been rather a better inquiry. Foochow Congous: Sittings still command 7d. to 7½d.; common to fair, 7½d. to 11d., but prices are most irregular; the general decline is ½d. per lb., but in some cases at auction 1d. to 2d. would scarcely cover the drop; medium to fine, when wanted, command 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per lb. Black Leaf Congous: Common 7½d. to 7½d.; good common, 8½d. to 8½d.; fair, 9d. to 1s., showing very irregular and lower rates at auction. Medium to fine are firm, with little enquiry at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 7d. per lb. Tayahan Congous, unaltered. Oolongs have sold lower, from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d. per lb. Souchong: Common, 10d.; fair, 11d. to 1s. 3d.; fine, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d., all at lower rates. Scented Teas: Canton Capers, common still sells at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 1½d., fair 1s. 2d.; but above this price there is still little demand. Scented Orange Pekoes.—Canton kinds: Common 1s. 2d., good to fine 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d.; Foochow: Common 1s. 1d., fair 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. Green Teas: Fine Gunpowders, Young Hysons, and Imperials show an advance; common grades of all kinds are unaltered.

SILK.

Messrs. Walthman and Co.'s Circular says:—A reduction of about 2s. per lb. in China Silk has been effected by considerable quantities of Tantless being pressed for sale from Lyons during the last fortnight; the Silk thus offered has been, and is still being, bought by the trade, and the present tendency appears to be towards a slight hardening in rates. English holders and importers, apparently feeling confidence in the statistical position of the article, have shown no disposition to meet the market. In the absence of any demand for Japanese, prices are about 1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb. lower than at the beginning of the year. In Canton and Bengal there is no feature calling for remark.

LONDON QUOTATIONS—FEB. 9.

CHINA.			
Taitze, No. 1	...	...	37s. 6d. to 38s. 0d.
" No. 2	...	...	36s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.
" No. 3	...	...	35s. 6d. to 36s. 6d.
" Red Pencil	...	...	32s. 0d. to 33s. 0d.
Yuenfan and Hainan, Nos. 1, 2, and 3	...	...	21s. 0d. to 22s. 0d.
Tayacan Keying, Nos. 1, 2, and 3	...	...	19s. 0d. to 20s. 0d.
Long Reel	...	...	14s. 0d. to 15s. 0d.
Canton	...	...	15s. 0d. to 16s. 0d.
Chinese Thrown	...	...	17s. 0d. to 18s. 0d.
JAPAN.			
Mitsubishi and Sincin, Nos. 1, 2, and 3...	...	...	34s. 6d. to 35s. 0d.
Idah	...	...	33s. 0d. to 34s. 0d.
Soda, No. 2	...	...	33s. 0d. to 34s. 0d.
Oshio, Nos. 1, 2, and 3	...	...	19s. 0d. to 20s. 0d.
Ametski	...	...	27s. 0d. to 28s. 0d.
Kakuh	...	...	27s. 0d. to 28s. 0d.
Hatcho gee...	...	...	19s. 0d. to 20s. 0d.

COFFEE.—Early in the week a good demand prevailed for Plantation Ceylon at the public sales, and moderate supplies were quickly disposed of at a further recovery of 6d. to 1s. The improvement in the demand has not since been sustained, and the public sales, consisting almost entirely of Plantation, have gone off irregularly, and the advance has been lost. Closing prices are triage 86s. 6d. to 91s., grey to fine small 101s. to 107s., low middling 107s. to 109s. 6d., middling 110s. to 112s., good middling to fine middling colony 113s. to 115s., bold 116s. 6d. to 120s. 6d., pea-berry 112s. 6d. to 117s. 6d. Early in the week 17½ bags Native Ceylon soli, triage at 77s., real good ordinary at 85s. 6d., b-d at 87s. 6d., pea-berry at 91s. Of 595 bags Singapore offered 63 bags Pari Pari sold at 78s., the remainder, mixed pile kinds, being bought in at 82s., but was afterwards sold at about 78s. per cwt.

CANTHARIDES.—Of 5 cases China 3 cases ordinary sold at 1s. 2d., mouldy 1s., the remainder bought in at 2s. 8d.

COIR YARN.—Moderate supplies brought forward in public sale consisted largely of damaged, and the bulk was disposed of at about the former value. 40 tons Ceylon sold, roping £23 15s., low coarse and ordinary £26 5s. to £28, good ordinary to medium £23 15s. to £31 5s., good middling to good £32 5s. to £35, fine pale even qualities £37 to £43, one lot £46 5s.

CHINA STRAW PLAIT.—At auction 96 bales chiefly sold, white medium wide to good medium £9 15s., to £11 10s., good £13 to £15, dull coarse brown and white £9 5s. to £11 15s., black and white £11 5s. to £13 10s. per bale.

COCOA-NUT OIL continues quiet; Cochin £41 5s. to £41 10s., Ceylon in pipes £37 10s.

CUTCH AND GAMBIR.—No business done during the week.

GALLS.—Prices of China have further declined, in auction 218 cases being partly sold at 58s. to 59s. per cwt. For arrival 350 cases China have been sold at 58s.

GUM BENJAMIN.—Of 17 cases offered 8 cases Sumatra second mixed with dark sold at £6 2s. 6d. to £7, the remainder bought in, brown thirds at £5 15s.

HEMP.—The market for Manila remains depressed, and with little demand even at the recent decline business is quite unimportant. The trifling supply at the periodical auctions attracted scarcely any attention, and was mostly bought in.

HIDES.—At yesterday's sales there were no Singapore and Penang and Rangoon Ox and Cow Hides of any importance brought forward. China were in large supply; the extreme light and heavy weights were in good demand for export, and realised full previous prices; but the medium averages (10 to 20 lbs.) were only partly sold at from last sales' rates to 4d. per lb. decline. Of 20,792 China offered 10,577 sold: Light, average 10 to 11 lbs., 7d. to 7½d.; heavy, average 15½ lbs., 7d. to 7½d.; extra heavy, average 26 to 28½ lbs., 7½d. to 7½d.; kips, average 5½ to 7½ lbs., 7½d. to 8d.; Calf, average 4 to 4½ lbs., 7½d. to 7½d.; thirds, average 12½ to 17½ lbs., 4½d. to 5d. per lb. Buffalo: The few Batavia offered call for no remark. A small supply of Singapore, &c., barely supported previous value. Of 2,154 offered 1,435 sold: Light, average 12½ to 14½ lbs., 5½d. to 5½d.; first heavy, average 37 to 37½ lbs., 5d. to 5½d.; second heavy, average 33½ lbs., 4½d.; thirds, 4½d. per lb.

JAPAN WAX.—20 boxes saucers, yellow, sold at 40s.

JAPAN TALLOW.—200 cases sold, brownish clean 40s., dark, rather dregged, 39s. 6d.

PEPPER.—Black: The market remains dull, but prices are unchanged. At auction 1,131 bags went off flatly and were chiefly bought in. 633 bags Singapore bought in at 4½d., except 23 bags fine, which sold at 4½d. 339 bags Penang chiefly sold, first-class damaged at 3½d. to 3½d. White: Of 403 bags at auction the bulk was offered without reserve, and sold at a further reduction of 4d. per lb. Of 318 bags Singapore 293 bags sold without reserve, import 1873 at 6½d. landing weights, import 1875, at 6½d. to 6½d. reweights, 95 bags Penang, import 1876, sold at 6½d., one lot at 6½d., landing weights.

RICE.—The market for new crop cargoes is less depressed, and prices are steadier. A cargo of a steamer, 1,800 tons new Rangoon, has been sold at 10s. 4½d., or at 10s. 6d. with options. The floating cargo per *Albatross*, 1,210 tons Necranie, off coast, has been sold at 10s. 5½d. ex quay Liverpool; and the cargo per *N. J. Hill*, 1,800 tons Rangoon, Ngakyouk, January sailing, at 8s. 9d. ex ship London direct.

RATTANS.—At auction 178 tons Singapore chiefly sold at £17 to £17 5s., one lot £21 10s. per ton.

SUGAR.—The market has exhibited a continued steady demand, and at the public sales limited quantities of refining kinds have been sold at fully previous rates, and low brown kinds have been in demand at 6d. above last week. Subjoined are the transactions in East Indian sorts in detail. On the 3rd inst. on the spot 100 tons Native Penang sold at 19s. 6d., 50 tons ditto at 20s., and 100 tons China (Swatow) at 20s. 6d. For arrival 55 tons Penang sold at 19s. 9d. On the 5th inst. on the spot 100 tons low China sold at 19s. 6d., and 200 tons Native Penang at 20s. On the 6th inst. 1,540 mats China (Swatow) sold in auction at 21s., with low at 20s. Privately 4,460 bags undelayed Ilo Ilo sold at 21s. On the 7th inst. privately 300 tons good brown Native Penang sold at 21s., and at auction 100 tons brown China (Swatow) sold at 21s. On the 8th inst. for arrival 100 tons Native Penang sold at 20s., and about 300 tons brown China, also for arrival, at 20s. per cwt.

SPICES.—*Cassia* *Liynca* continues dull, and prices are again 2s. lower; in auction 266 boxes unworked were bought in at 57s. to 58s., but 186 boxes since sold at 55s. *Cassia*: 135 mats Japan bought in at 30s. to 35s. *Mace*: Of 5 cases Penang 3 cases sold, middling red at 2s., pickings at 9d. *Clorice* and *Nutmegs*: No sales.

SAGO.—In auction of 752 bags only 250 bags sold, good fair small at 16s. 6d. to 17s., being steady, but large at 18s. 3d., or slightly cheaper.

TAPICCA.—Of 460 bags Singapore 150 bags sold, good small white at 2½d. to 2½d. *Pearl*: 235 bags medium sold at fully 6d. lower, good of fresh import at 18s. 6d., middling to good old import at 18s. to 18s. 6d. *Flour*: 56 bags Penang bought in at 1½d., 6 bags Singapore at 1½d.

TIN has been quiet, but steady. Quotations:—Straits on the spot £73 to £73 10s., about £73; Banca £76; Billiton £74 per ton.

TOSACCO.—346 bales Japan leaf sold at 7d. to 9d., 168 bales Japan damaged 4d. to 8d., inferior 1½d. to 2½d., 2 bales Japan repacked damaged 2d., 12 bales Japan scraps 1½d. to 2d., part of 338 bales China 4d. to 7½d., 1 bale inferior 2½d., 95 bales China damaged 4½d. to 5½d., 2 bales China repacked damaged 1d. to 1½d., 201 bales Java 4d. to 6½d., inferior 1½d., 10 bales Sumatra 10d. to 4s. 10d., 1 case Manila cheroots sea damaged 5s. 3d. per lb.

ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

METALS.

IRON.—Welsh: Rails, £5 5s. to £5 10s.; Bars, £6 5s. to £6 10s.;

Staffordshire Best: Bars, £7 10s. to £8; Nail Rods, £7 10s. to £8; Hoops, £8 10s. to £9 15s.; Sheets, £10 to £12; Scotch Pig, No. 1, £2 18s. to £3 10s.; Swedes, Bars, Hammered, £11 to £12; Swedes, Steel in kegs, ½ and ¾ in., £16 10s. to £17.

YELLOW METAL.—Sheets, 4 by 4 ft., 7½d. to 7½d.; Sheathing and Rods, 7½d. per lb.

TIN.—English Refined, £77 to £78. Tin Plates: Charcoal IC, per box, 24s. to 29s.; Coke, 19s. to 22s.

LEAD.—WB, £22 10s.; do., other brands, £21 7s. 6d. to £21 12s. 6d.; Spanish soft, ex ship, £21 2s. 6d. to £21 7s. 6d.; Sheet, £22 10s.; Shot (kegs extra), £24 15s.; White do., £23.

SPECTER.—Silesian, £31 to £31 10s.

QUICKSILVER.—In bottles of 75 lbs. each, £7 15s.

MANCHESTER GOODS.

Business in the Manchester Market has continued inanimate, and the offers put forward diminish daily. The transactions in both Yarns and Goods have been on a very limited scale, and at prices showing some decline on last week's quotations, but there has not been sufficient business to afford an accurate test of the reductions that might be accepted.

EXPORT OF WOOLLENS TO CHINA AND JAPAN.

The following is Messrs. Hayter and Hayter's Monthly Statement of the estimated Exports of Woollens shipped to China and Japan from London and Liverpool:—

		Pieces Long Ells.	Pieces Canlets.	Pieces Lastings and Crapés	Pieces other Woollens and Union Stuffs.	Pieces Spanish Stuffs.	Pieces other Woollens.
Shipped to this date during the present year	To China	9,200	9,800	3,920	15,380	6,255	3,356
	„ Japan	—	—	20	16,700	—	1,720
	Total	9,200	9,800	4,120	32,280	6,255	5,076
Shipped to the same date last year	To China	11,620	7,380	3,870	10,730	5,856	1,841
	„ Japan	—	—	20	9,730	—	230
	Total	11,620	7,380	4,100	19,810	5,856	2,071
Do. 1875	To China	10,440	6,880	3,910	17,120	5,401	3,134
	„ Japan	—	—	100	10,115	—	1,260
	Total	10,440	6,720	4,010	36,235	5,401	4,394
Total shipped during the year 1876	To China	119,300	78,610	38,930	133,368	64,335	35,569
	„ Japan	—	—	1,770	16,700	—	35,124
	Total	119,300	78,610	40,700	261,173	64,335	63,760
Do. 1875	To China	112,540	86,720	51,910	196,710	65,217	70,950
	„ Japan	—	—	2,470	261,550	—	62,919
	Total	112,540	86,720	54,380	458,260	65,217	133,269

WOOLLEN GOODS.—LONDON QUOTATIONS.

HH Long Ells	...	...	33 0	per piece	Scarlet
HH Spanish Stripes	...	...	3 0	„ yard	„
HH Canlets	...	...	66 0	„ piece	„
SS Lastings (6 reed)	...	...	58 0	„	Gentian
H Do. (5 reed)	...	...	52 0	„	„
HH China Figures	...	...	18 6	„	Black
H Do. do.	...	...	15 6	„	„
LL Do. do.	...	...	14 9	„	„

Shipping Intelligence.

DEPARTURES.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	For	From
Jan. 1	Ville de Bruxelles	Pellet	Saigon	Teneriffe*
5	Auguste	Lange	Atchin	Bahia*
26	Abdullah Engler	Fickert	Amoy	New York
27	Tokuwak	Isomik	Sourabaya	Amsterdam
31	Radnorshire (s.)	Thomson	China and Japan	London
31	Forward Ho	Wade	Shanghai	Do.
31	Polius (s.)	—	Batavia	Port of Spain
Feb. 1	Robert Henderson	Gunn	Hong Kong	Burjass
1	Maid Marian	Forrest	Do.	Southampton*
2	Brenthe (s.)	Kramers	Batavia	Cardiff
2	Colyneda	Schwamer	Hong Kong	Do.
3	Ignes	Hirles	Singapore	Do.
3	B. Peters	Lane	Do.	Do.
3	Antenor (s.)	Jones	Shanghai	Liverpool
4	Aurora (s.)	Muniz	Manila	Do.
4	Peri	Lahra	Penang	Hamburg
5	Southern Queen	Ricker	Do.	Cardiff
5	Colock	Rennie	Amoy	Do.
5	Carrival	H. Ling	Hong Kong	Do.
5	Shakespeare	—	Java	Do.
6	Febla (s.)	Bakk	Batavia	Southampton
6	Mary S. Ames	—	Java	Newcastle
6	Gloamin	—	Galle	Cardiff
6	Berwent	White	Penang	Southland
6	London Castle (s.)	Marshall	Shanghai	London
8	Daphne	Arendrup	Hong Kong	Do.

* After repairing.

ARRIVALS.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	From	At
Jan. 30	Ange Marie	Adches	Saigon	Valparaiso
Feb. 1	Rola	Hansen	Sourabaya	Copenhagen
1	Catharina	Grovaria	Rangoon	London
2	K. d. Nederlanden (s.)	Bravus	Batavia	Amsterdam
3	Albatross	South	Batavia	Falmouth
3	Gustar	South	Batavia	Greenock
3	Ajax (s.)	Kidd	Batavia	London
4	Chicora	Jones	Java	Queenstown
4	Gloria (s.)	Larrington	Manila	Liverpool
5	Cervantes	Harcie	Rangoon	Bremen
5	Edmund Gressier	Fouquet	Formosa	London
6	Kate Carnie	Wilson	Singapore	Do.
6	Imatra	Ponsar	Rangoon	Falmouth
7	Ann Thorman	Voss	Cebu	Do.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.

Date.	Steamer.	From	For
Feb. 2	Glenhula	Footbow	London
3	Sarah Anne	Caniff	Galle
6	Princes Amalia	Batavia	Nieuwe Diep
7	Glenlyon	London	Shanghai
7	Prinai	Shanghai	London

See Shipping Postscript and Correspondents' Letters.

LOADING.

At LONDON.—STEAMERS VIA SUEZ CANAL.—For Singapore, Hong Kong, Yokohama, and Higo: Argentino. For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai: Glenartney, Fleurs Castle, Glenearu.

SAILING VESSELS.—For Yokohama: Caroline. For Higo: Sir William Wallace. For Shanghai: Beloit Will, City of Aberdeen, Sir Lancaster. For Hong Kong: Antwerp, Penrith, Enkil, Osaka, Commissary, Scindia. For Batavia: Valero, Emma. For Singapore: Berwickshire, Glenela, W. E. Gladstone. For Penang: Wemyss Castle.

At LIVERPOOL.—For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai: Glaucus (str.). Anchises (str.). For Hong Kong: C. W. Coolrane. For Manila: Eleano. For Batavia: Corea, XV. Marzo. For Singapore: G. B. S., Aleppo, Annie Reed. For Anjer: John M. Clark, Lottie Warren.

At GLASGOW.—For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai: Glenaele (str.). For Shanghai: Isle of Erin. For Bangkok: Lyra. For Singapore and Penang: Janet Fergusson. For Colombo: Thomas Hamlin.

SPOKEN.

AGATE, New York to Shanghai, Dec. 3, 25 S., 26 W.
WINDHOVER, London to Shanghai, Jan. 21, 49 N., 7 W.
ELIZABETH CHILDS, Sunderland to Sing., Dec. 30, on the Equator, 26 W.
J. L. T. R., Cardiff to Straits of Malacca, Jan. 24, 43 N., 17 W.
KHERSONESE, Liverpool to Galle, Dec. 14, 14 S., 30 W.
WEGA, Hamburg to Chefoo, Dec. 2, 11 S., 31 W.
SINDORO, Pekalongan to Amsterdam, Jan. 2, off St. Helena.
MALLARD, London to Singapore, Jan. 29, 41 N., 14 W.
QUESTENBERT, Singapore to Marseilles, Jan. 20, 21 N., 35 W.
CLAN ALPINE, Cardiff to Penang, Dec. 17, 3 N., 22 W.
DUKE OF ABERCORN, Hong Kong to London, Dec. 11, 25 S., 60 E.
JOHN N. CAMWELL, Batavia to Falmouth, Jan. 23, 35 N., 29 W.
P. J. R. S. (German), Newcastle to Sourabaya, Dec. 14, 16 S., 30 W.
ESSEX, Cardiff to Singapore, Dec. 19, 3 S., 29 W.
PEGASUS, Liverpool to Galle, Dec. 22, 2 N., 28 W.
LIGHTNING, San Francisco to Manila, Jan. 22, 36 N., 125 W.
COREA, Hong Kong to London, Dec. 5, 35 S., 24 E.
ISOLINA, Cardiff to Singapore, Dec. 19, 5 S., 31 W.

FREIGHTS AND CHARTERS.

Current Rates of Freight for Vessels on the Berth.

Per STEAMERS VIA SUEZ CANAL.—To Yokohama: 50s. weight, 47s. 6d. meat. To Higo: 50s. weight, 50s. meat. To Nagasaki: 60s. weight, 65s. meat. To Shanghai: 45s. weight, 40s. meat. To Hankow: 70s. weight, 70s. meat. To Hong Kong: 45s. weight, 40s. meat. To Singapore: 45s. weight, 40s. meat. To Penang: 45s. weight, 40s. meat. To Colombo: 30s. weight or meat. To Batavia: 60s. meat. To Samarang: 70s. meat. To Sourabaya: 70s. meat.

For SAILING VESSELS.—To Yokohama: 30s. weight, 30s. meat. To Higo: 35s. weight or meat. To Shanghai: 30s. weight, 20s. meat. To Hong Kong: 27s. 6d. weight, 20s. meat. To Singapore: 22s. 6d. weight, 20s. meat. To Penang: 20s. weight, 20s. meat. To Batavia Samarang, and Sourabaya: 20s. to 25s. weight, 25s. to 30s. meat. To Colombo: 25s. weight, 22s. 6d. meat.

The current quotations for coal, &c., are as follows:—From Wear or Tyne, per keel.—To Yokohama: £30. To Shanghai: £30. To Hong Kong: £25. To Singapore: £23. To Penang: £20. To Colombo: £20. To Galle: £13. To Batavia and Sourabaya: £19.

From Newport, Cardiff, or Swansea, per ton.—To Yokohama: 30s. To Shanghai: 30s. To Hong Kong: 27s. To Manila: 25s. To Singapore: 23s. To Colombo: 20s. To Galle: 21s. To Batavia and Sourabaya: 21s.

From Birkenhead, per ton.—To Hong Kong: 22s. 6d. To Shanghai: 25s. To Singapore: 16s. To Batavia and Sourabaya: 18s. To Galle: 16s.

INSURANCE.

	Mails.			First-class steamer.			Sailing.		
	In Tar.	In Tra.	F.Pa.	In Tar.	In Tra.	F.Pa.	In Tar.	In Tra.	F.Pa.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Penang	35 0	17 6	15 0	36 0	22 6	20 0	37 6	22 6	20 0
Singapore	35 0	17 6	15 0	36 0	22 6	20 0	37 6	22 6	20 0
Colombo	35 0	17 6	15 0	36 0	22 6	20 0	37 6	22 6	20 0

Hong Kong	35 0	17 6	15 0	36 0	22 6	20 0	37 6	22 6	20 0
Shanghai	40 0	32 6	30 0	50 0	37 6	30 0	45 0	37 6	30 0
Yokohama	40 0	32 6	30 0	50 0	37 6	30 0	45 0	37 6	30 0

CASUALTIES.

GRIMSBY.—Feb. 5, the barque James Vinnicombe, of London, Trail, from Sunderland for Anjer (coals), collided on the night of the 2nd inst. in the Wold with the schooner Princess of Wales, of Padstow. The barque has sustained great damage, and has been assisted in here.

WEXFORD.—Feb. 7, the barque Ullock, of Liverpool, Reunio, from Cardiff for Anjer for orders (coals), is ashore at Tucumabane; crew landed.

NEW YORK.—Jan. 27 the Lightning, ship, Watson, from San Francisco for Manila, was spoken, Jan. 22, in lat. 36 N., long. 125 W., and reported that, on the first day out, the topping lift broke, the boom knocked a man overboard, who was drowned, another man was killed on deck, and the second mate had his leg broken.

MAURITIUS.—Jan. 5, the Condor, barquentine, of and from Rangoon, Locke, for Liverpool (rice), called at the Outer Anchorage on Dec. 13 to repair her steering gear, and to be supplied with sundry articles. She had encountered very bad weather, sustaining serious damage, and proceeded Dec. 23.

CAPE TOWN.—(By telegraph dated Madeira, Feb. 6.)—The Glenlyon (British ship), from Rangoon to Falmouth, has put in here leaky.

BRISBANE.—(By telegraph dated Sydney, Feb. 6.)—The Singapore (str.) struck off Mackay, filled with water, and has become a total loss; crew and passengers saved.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DEAL.—Feb. 4, the Winlow, barque, Barker, of and from Sunderland for Singapore, put back to the Downs, and has been supplied with an anchor and fifteen fathoms of chain in lieu of others lost at Dungeness.

DARTMOUTH.—Feb. 1, the Maid Marian, from Cardiff, for Hong Kong, which put in here leaky and with other damage, in January, has sailed for her destination.

MALTA.—Sailed, Feb. 3, Torrington (str.), for Rotterdam, from Batavia, &c.

TEHERAN.—Jan. 1, the Ville de Bruxelles, from Marseilles, for Saigon, which arrived here in November last with damages, has sailed after repairing.

BAHIA.—Jan. 12, the Auguste, Dutch ship, from Shields, for Atchin, which put in here in distress in September last, having repaired damages, and sold about 420 tons of coal, in consequence of the cargo being somewhat heated and requiring to be retimmed, proceeded Jan. 5.

MAURITIUS.—Jan. 5, arrived and proceeded, Dec. 10, Romeo, from Rangoon, for Channel, &c.; 23, Condor, from Rangoon, for Liverpool; sailed, 9, Oregon; 13, Alpine; 23, Nenuphar; 27, Witch; 30, Annie, all for Galle; 14, Eleanor; 28, Flying Scud, Bulwary, all for Colombo.

TABLE BAY.—Arrived, Jan. 2, Johan Sverdrup, from Hong Kong, and left, 5th, for New York; Felicia, from Sourabaya, Threepwood, from Cheribon, both for Falmouth; 8, Silome, from Manila, for Liverpool; Holstein, from Swatow, for London.

ALGOA BAY.—Arrived Jan. 2, Portia, from Hong Kong.

EAST LONDON.—Sailed, Dec. 23, M. Smith, for Guam.

YOKOHAMA.—Arrived, Jan. 29, the yacht Sunbeam, belonging to Mr. Thomas Brassey, M.P., and sailed again for England, via Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon, and the Suez Canal on Feb. 3.

GENERAL SHIPPING NEWS.

SHIP REPORT.—The Master, Wieck, of the barque Constantia, 464 tons, of and from Sunderland Jan. 27, for Anjer (715 tons of coal), reports:—On the 30th, at four A.M., tide being low water slack, weather stormy, wind W.S.W., blowing a gale, with a high cross sea, the barque being then near the Galkop, deponent, finding the glass falling rapidly and the wind increasing, with every appearance of very bad weather, bore up for Yarmouth Roads. At about 10.45 same morning, as the barque was reaching in through Saint Nicholas Gat, and shortly after passing the lightship, the wind blowing a heavy gale and squalls, suddenly veered to the W.N.W., which caused the barque to veer off with her head about north, and, finding that she could not weather the South Scroby Sand, he endeavoured to stay her, but not being able to carry sufficient canvas on account of the violence of the wind, the ship missed stays, and came to the ground on the South Scroby Sand. Immediately after missing stays he let go his anchor, but the chain parted at thirty fathoms, there being a tremendous sea running. The ship remained fast, and the sea made a complete breach over her, and, as she tilted with water, deponent and his crew took to the rigging. The lifeboat came off to her, and also two steam-tugs came out, but could not get near the ship on account of the violence of the sea. The lifeboat anchored to windward of the ship, and then veered down upon the ship until she was near enough to throw two lines, which were caught by deponent and his crew and made fast round their waists, and they then jumped into the sea, were hauled on board the lifeboat and brought on shore, and landed at Yarmouth same day.

THE MAIL SERVICE TO JAVA.—The subjoined official notification has been issued from the Post-office:—Notice has been received that the mail service by Dutch packet from Naples to the Dutch East Indies has been increased in frequency from once in four weeks to once in three weeks. The next packet will leave Naples on Thursday, the 15th February, and thenceforward a packet will sail on every third Thursday. Any correspondence for Java or Sumatra which the public may desire to send by this route will be so forwarded, if specially addressed "By Netherland Packet, via Naples." The postage will be as follows:—Letters, 8d. per ½ oz.; newspapers, 3d. each, not exceeding 4 oz.; books and patterns, 3d. per 2 oz. Registered letters may be forwarded if prepaid the ordinary postage, together with a registration fee of 4d. each letter.

THE SINGAPORE.—The Eastern and Australian mailsteamer Singapore, reported by telegram from Sydney as having been lost on an outlying reef of one of the islands of the Cumberland Group, was an iron screw steamer of 1,540 tons gross, 964 net, and 250 nominal horse power, extreme length from stem to stern 285ft. 6in., 32ft. 2in. broad, with 15ft. 8in. depth of hold. She was built at Glasgow by Messrs. A. and J. Inglis, classed 100 A1 at Lloyd's, and had the Board of Trade first-class as a foreign-going vessel, together with a certificate for carrying 460 passengers. Her official number is 70,661, value nearly £35,000.

The Nederland Company's steamer Celebes, Captain C. A. Bikker, sailed from Southampton on the 6th inst. for Padang, Batavia, Sama-

rang, and Sourabaya, with the Netherlands mails and specie, £5,000 in English gold, 40 cabin passengers, 153 Dutch troops, and a full cargo of merchandise from England and the Continent.

The Newcastle steamer Ethel, has been totally wrecked on Lundy Island, while on her voyage from Bilbao to Newport, Monmouthshire, and all the crew, twenty in number, with the exception of the mate, have been lost.

SUNDRIES PER BARQUE "ADOLPH ENGLER," FROM NEW YORK, FOR ANJER, JAN. 26.
218,350 gals. retd. petroleum.

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Reserve Fund, £500,000.
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A. H. Phillips, Esq. (of Messrs. V. A. Gibb and Co.).
MANAGER—David McLean, 31, Lombard-street, E.C.

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Shanghai, Yokohama, Singapore,
Fuzhou, Higo, Bombay,
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The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills at any of the Branches or Agencies; also receive Deposits for fixed periods, at rates varying with the period of deposit.

The Corporation issue Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, negotiable in the principal cities of Europe, Asia, and America for the use of travellers.

They open Current Accounts for the convenience of constituents returning from China, Japan, and India.

They also undertake the Agency of constituents connected with the East, and receive for safe custody Indian and other Government Securities, drawing Interest and Dividends on the same as they fall due.

Dividends are payable in London in April and October, on receipt of the advice of meeting in Hong Kong, held in February and August.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, August 30, 1851.
PAID-UP CAPITAL, £1,500,000.
RESERVED FUNDS, £500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Fuzhou, Higo, Hong Kong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, and Yokohama on terms which may be ascertained at their Office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Oriental Route.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above-named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of £100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms for which may be ascertained on application at their Office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturdays, Ten to Two.

Threadneedle-street, London, 1877.

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Recognised by the International Convention of 30th April, 1853.

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Reserved fund 500,000

£1,000,000

CHIEF MANAGER.—Mons. G. Girod.

HEAD OFFICE.—1, Rue Bergère, Paris.

LONDON OFFICE.—141, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

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BRANCHES AT.—Lyons, Marseilles, Nantes (France), Brussels (Belgium), Calcutta, Bombay, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Bourbon (Reunion), and Yokohama (Japan).

The Bank grants Drafts and Letters of Credit on all their Branches and Correspondents on the Continent and the East, and transacts Banking business of every description.

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Deposits received for fixed periods on the following terms, viz.:—At 5 per cent. per annum, subject to twelve months' notice of withdrawal. For shorter periods deposits will be received on terms to be agreed upon. Bills issued at the current exchange of the day on any of the Branches of the Bank free of extra charge; and approved bills purchased or sent for collection. Sales and purchases effected in British and Foreign Securities, in East India Stock and Loans, and the safe custody of the same undertaken. Interest drawn, and Army, Navy, and Civil Pay and Pensions realised. Every other description of Banker's Business and Money Agency, British and Indian, transacted.

J. THOMSON, Chairman.

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FIVE PRIZE MEDALS PARIS AND VIENNA.

PICKLES AND SAUCES,
JAMS AND JELLIES,
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TART FRUITS, DESSERT FRUITS,
MUSTARD, VINEGAR,
FRUITS IN BRANDY AND NOYEAU
POTTED MEATS AND FISH,
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HERRINGS A LA SARDINE,
PICKLED SALMON,
YACHTMOUTH HERRINGS,
BLACKWALL WHITEBAIT,
FRESH AND FROZEN HADDOCKS,
PURE SALAD OIL,
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P. H. POWERS, Manager.

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PEARL-LIKE WHITENESS.

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Siam	3,026	500	Mar. 1	Mediterranean, Aden, Bombay
*Indus	3,471	500	Mar. 8	Mediterranean, Aden, Ceylon, Madras, Calcutta, Straits, China, Japan, and Australia

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H. Kong & Shanghai	Canal	Book			
Ditto	Mikado	s.s. via S.	100 A1	1993	S.W.I. April 10
Hong Kong	Enid	*AA	496	S.W.I.	With des
Hong Kong	Scindia	*AA1	394	S.W.I.	Tofollow
Hong Kong	McBreck	A1 15 yr.	370	S.W.I.	Tofollow
Hong Kong	A ship			S.W.I.	Tofollow
Hong Kong	River	100 A1	1006	S.W.I.	Tofollow
Shanghai	Bellied Will	A1 15 yr.	812	S.W.I.	With des
Shanghai	Sir Lancelot	A1 16 yr.	817	S.W.I.	Tofollow
Shanghai	Corea	A1 14 yr.	581	S.W.I.	Tofollow

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Hong Kong	Antwerp	s.s. via S.	3-345	S.W.I. With des.
Shanghai	City of Aker	A1 16 yr.	W.I.D	With des.
Yokohama & Hiogo	Caroline	20 A1	S.W.I	With des.
	Sir William Wallace	A1 11 yr.	S.W.I.	With des.

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Glenearn	100 A1	2,130	320	Feb. 21
Glenegyle	100 A1	2,130	320	To follow
Glenorchy	100 A1	2,798	400	To follow
Glenquo	100 A1	1,676	260	To follow
Glenfalloch	100 A1	2,136	375	To follow
Glenfinlas	100 A1	2,130	320	To follow
Glenroy	100 A1	2,121	350	To follow
State of Louisiana	100 A1	1,869	240	To follow
Glenartney	100 A1	2,106	320	To follow
Glenlyon	100 A1	2,119	275	To follow

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Last shipping day, 17th February.

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Pen. Sing.	Elgin	100 A1	1390	V.I.D	Feb. 28

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